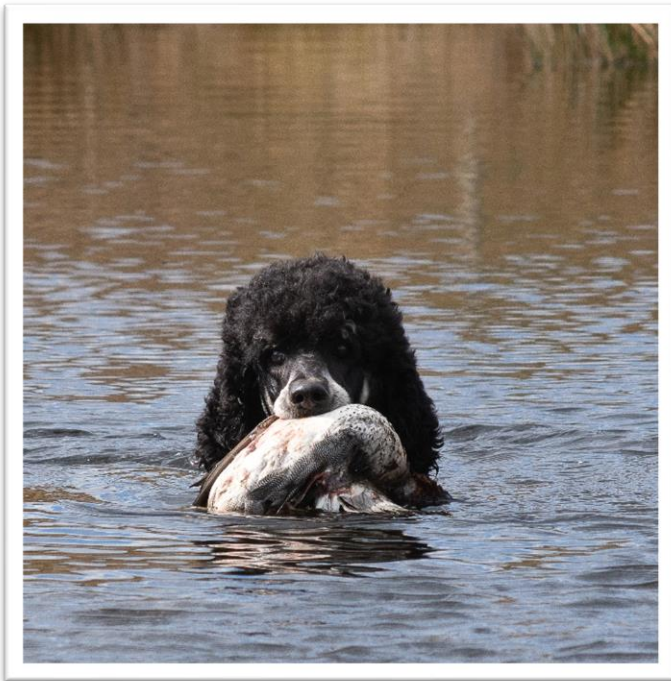


The German Hunting Pudel

(article copyright Louise Jones)

Amongst the General Public, Poodles often get a bad reputation as Frou-Frou dogs, and to some extent this can be attributed to the French and their elaborate interpretation of Poodle trims.

Forget 'Best in Show' ! The Poodle was originally a hunting dog developed in Central Europe, particularly in the area that would later become Germany during the 16th and 17th centuries.



The breed became popular among French nobles who had their pets' coats elaborately trimmed. The Poodle was later standardised in France in the 18th century, when they became referred to as 'caniche' - a name derived from 'chien canard', meaning 'duck dog'.

The elaborate 'continental' coat styling we see today in the Show-Ring had an original purpose; to protect joints, muscles, and vital organs such as the kidneys from the cold, although the grooming would have been far more subtle than the excessive styling that we see today in the Show-Ring.

The Poodle is the natural ultimate 'Showman' and lends itself to the show ring with its happy, smiley and extroverted demeanour.

Sadly, Poodles have declined in popularity in the shooting field largely because of their image, which is far from the reality of the breed. They are bold, intelligent and systematic workers who thrive on being challenged.

Poodles were predominantly used as water fowling dogs in the past, as the Poodle's athletic frame lends itself to swimming. Nowadays this doesn't come quite as naturally as, for example, the field-trial winning, line-bred, super-driven working Labrador that we are familiar with seeing in these working roles.

