

It may take a skilled, patient handler to bring out their Poodle's best. Poodles require a slightly different approach to training, patiently teasing the natural instinct out of the dog at a young age is what we have found to be the most effective method. They rely on the handler's sensitive approach to build strong basics and confidence, but once established they will give any Spaniel or Labrador a run for their money. Poodles will work 'with' their owners rather than 'for' their owners.



And even on their worst days the stylish Poodle can make a handler look good!

My two year-old black phantom coloured bitch Nora, has been bred in the UK from American lines and is currently the first and only standard Poodle to hold the Kennel Club's Working Gundog Certificate. This year Nora will contest her LWDG intermediate working certificate and will run a KC Working Gundog Test, (HC), thanks to the kind acceptance of the Arfon Gundog Club.

Presently, the Working Gundog Certificate is the only hunting title a Poodle can hold, as a consequence of being classified as a member of the Utility Group - this is something that the working Poodle community is hoping to change in coming years, which we believe will change the quality and popularity of working Poodles.

Unfortunately, in the UK we have restricted access to **proven** working lines. In partnership with a colleague in Europe, I co-own proven titled dogs in both the show ring and hunting field, and together we have developed a small breeding programme that we are slowly evolving, taking time to select dogs with the combination of attributes we believe are most important; with working ability, breed type and conformation being at the forefront of our requirements.

Hopefully we will soon be ready to import and add the pups coming through from these carefully developed lines to our programme in the UK. It's been a long time coming, and we still have a long way to go, but I really believe that focus on the long game is the preferred way to do it properly.

My small team work up to 100 days per season, both in the beating line and picking up. They really have led the way and opened-up so many doors for me and my dogs. My girls are such versatile and biddable workers, they will hit cover brilliantly, although living in North Wales, my dogs don't really have a choice!

They will quarter similarly to a Spaniel and retrieve as well as any Labrador. It's an absolute joy to share the field with such enthusiastic, steady, and methodical workers.

Poodles have been in my family for over 60 years starting with my grandmother, and I for one will never be without one, I'm dedicated to showcasing them as a legitimate gundog once again!