

## **‘Yeah she’s pretty but why do they put her in that stupid haircut?’**

‘I want a poodle but their haircut looks dumb’

I’ve heard it all before, so today with the poodle in the spotlight I wanted to take a minute and explain that ‘goofy looking’ haircut.

Like all breed standard trims on all purebred dogs the poodle trim you see here has its roots in history. Believe it or not, before they became the wonderful pets you know today Standard Poodles originated as hunting dogs retrieving birds from water in Germany in the late 16th century. Poodle translates to the German word Pudel which means ‘to splash’.

The ancestors of today’s poodles had the same thick, heavy coats that our pets still have and for fear of them sinking in the water because of the weight their owners would shave off all ‘non essential’ hair leaving coat in strategic areas to protect joints and organs.

The big floofy jacket on the front half of them? That’s to protect their heart and lungs from the cold.

The pompoms on the hips? Those protected the kidneys.

The poms on the ankles? They protect the ankle joints.

The shaved feet? That exposes the webbed toes making swimming easier.

The shaved face? That enables the dogs to see and grab downed birds without obstruction.

The Pom on the tail? That acts as a rudder as they swim.

The bow used to tie up their hair on top of their head? It serves 2 purposes, one is to keep the hair out of the eyes, the other is for identification from a distance. Different hunters would use different colored scraps of cloth so they knew which dog was there’s from the shore.

Through the centuries the cut has definitely become more elaborate and evolved into what you see in the ring today but it like all other breeds signature styles has its reasons in history and they are groomed this way for show to celebrate that rich history.

So there you have it!





