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Hypoallergenic Dog Breeds

The Obama family's search for a hypoallergenic dog has drawn a lot of attention to this subject lately. I saw an interview with the President-Elect where he said he's gotten more advice on what dog to get than he has on national security issues. I can't contribute a lot about current national security issues, but I'll add a little more to the discussion of hypoallergenic dog breeds.

According to the American Kennel Club the truest hypoallergenic dog is the Poodle. They come in three sizes. They are easy to train, and usually get along with other dogs and people, making this breed an excellent breed for the novice owner. The biggest downside (which is true of all no-to-low-shed breeds that aren't hairless) is that they need to be clipped regularly by a professional groomer.

The Portuguese Water Dog is very close to being purely hypoallergenic. A local groomer in town told me the curly coated PWDs, which have more of a poodle-like coat, are more hypoallergenic than the wavy coated dogs of this breed. They do look very close to a poodle in appearance, but this is a much higher energy breed and not for everyone.

The three hairless breeds that are widely available in the US are the Mexican Hairless (also called the Xoloitzcuintle or Xolo), American Hairless, and the Hairless Chinese Crested. They are hypoallergenic because they have no hair. All three are tiny breeds weighing as little as 5 lbs and great care is needed to keep them warm and keep their skin protected from the sun.

The rest of the hypoallergenic breeds are considered low shed because they shed some, but not a lot. If you are highly sensitive to pet hair or dander, you should consider the breeds mentioned above. When reviewing these breeds make sure you research the pros and cons of owning a particular breed and understand the temperament (personality) to make sure it fits your lifestyle. Too many dogs get turned into shelters because they were purchased for their looks, or because they are hypoallergenic, and the dog's temperament was wrong for their family.

Labradoodles and Goldendoodles are often advertised as hypoallergenic but the poodle is bred with two breeds that have a dense undercoat. If the dog inherits more of the retriever genes, it will shed. I have seen Labradoodles and Goldendoodles shed like retrievers. If you want a mix, consider a mix that breeds the poodle with a low shed breed.

Below is a link to all of the hypoallergenic dogs. What I like about this site is it very accurately describes the breed temperament and health issues.

<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/allergy.htm>

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