Draw a Poodle: Curl Texture and Leg Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a blank area, draw a near front leg guide 10 cm long (hypothetical). Mark the elbow at 40 percent down and the wrist at 75 percent down. Add six curls of 0.6 cm each along the lower half, overlapping by one-third.

Answer: Elbow at 4.0 cm, wrist at 7.5 cm, paw at 10 cm. Six curls of 0.6 cm each, with one-third overlap, add about 2.6 cm of new coverage: the first curl contributes its full 0.6 cm, and each of the five following curls adds about 0.4 cm (two-thirds of 0.6 cm), so 0.6 + 5 × 0.4 = 2.6 cm. Place the first curl at about 4.5 cm; the run then ends near 7.1 cm, keeping it within the lower half of the leg and clear of the wrist at 7.5 cm.

Reason: Percentages convert to distances by multiplying the leg length: 40 percent of 10 cm is 4.0 cm, and 75 percent of 10 cm is 7.5 cm. With one-third overlap, the first curl adds its full height and each later curl adds about two-thirds of its height, so six 0.6 cm curls add 0.6 cm + 5 × 0.4 cm = 2.6 cm of new coverage. Starting at about 4.5 cm, the run ends near 7.1 cm, which fits inside the lower half (5 cm to 10 cm) and leaves the wrist and paw marks clear.

Check: Measure the marked distances with a ruler and confirm the elbow at 4.0 cm and wrist at 7.5 cm. Count six curls, check that each overlaps the previous by about one-third, and confirm the curl run spans about 2.6 cm of new coverage within the lower half of the leg.

Task 2

Draw a back leg guide with a hip at the top, a knee 5 cm down, a hock 3 cm further down, and a paw 2 cm below the hock. Add four curls of 0.5 cm along the hock-to-paw section, following the centerline.

Answer: The guide has four landmarks in order: hip, knee at 5 cm, hock at 8 cm, paw at 10 cm. Place the first curl at about 8.2 cm. Four curls of 0.5 cm with one-third overlap add 0.5 cm + 3 × (2/3 × 0.5 cm) = 0.5 cm + 1.0 cm = 1.5 cm of new coverage, so the run ends near 9.7 cm, within the 2 cm hock-to-paw section. Curls open toward the paw and follow the centerline.

Reason: The distances are additive: 5 cm plus 3 cm plus 2 cm gives a 10 cm guide. The hock-to-paw section is 2 cm long, so four 0.5 cm curls with overlap fit if spaced carefully; the overlap rule keeps the texture continuous.

Check: Verify the landmark order and distances with a ruler. Confirm that the four curls stay within the hock-to-paw section and overlap consistently.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a small body outline 12 cm wide and 8 cm tall (hypothetical). Apply two rows of curls: top row five curls of 1 cm, bottom row four curls of 1 cm offset by half a curl. Check that each curl overlaps its neighbor by about one-third.

Answer: Place the top row starting at the left edge of the outline; five 1 cm curls with one-third overlap span about 3.7 cm (1 cm + 4 × 2/3 cm ≈ 3.67 cm). Place the bottom row offset by half a curl, starting about 0.5 cm from the left edge; four 1 cm curls span about 3.0 cm (1 cm + 3 × 2/3 cm). Both rows fit within the 12 cm width, but they cover only the left portion; additional rows would be needed to cover the full outline. The outline remains visible at the edges where curls define the silhouette.

Reason: With one-third overlap, the first curl adds its full height and each additional curl adds about two-thirds of its height. Five 1 cm curls add 1 cm + 4 × (2/3 cm) ≈ 3.67 cm; four 1 cm curls add 1 cm + 3 × (2/3 cm) = 3.0 cm. The offset row creates interlocking texture, and the exact span depends on spacing.

Check: Count five curls in the top row and four in the bottom row. Check the offset visually and confirm that overlaps are about one-third of a curl height.

Task 4

Draw a poodle head with a topknot of three large curls (1.2 cm each) and two ears with three small curls each (0.6 cm). Use the C-shape convention and keep the muzzle clear of curls.

Answer: The topknot has three overlapping 1.2 cm curls following the head contour. Each ear has three 0.6 cm curls following the ear edge. The muzzle area remains open, and the curls do not cross the eye line.

Reason: Larger curls on the topknot and smaller curls on the ears create intentional size variation. Keeping the muzzle clear preserves the poodle's facial structure and prevents the texture from obscuring key features.

Check: Count three topknot curls and three curls per ear. Confirm that the muzzle is clear and that each curl follows the local contour with consistent overlap.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Leg structure: centerlines and joint landmarks are present and plausible; paws align to a consistent ground line.
- [ ] Curl convention: C-shapes overlap by about one-third and follow the body contour; size variation is intentional.
- [ ] Texture coverage: curls cover the body and legs without becoming a solid mass; small breathing spaces remain.
- [ ] Shading: light shading supports volume under the belly and behind the far legs without heavy blending.
- [ ] Consistency: the chosen curl size and overlap rule are maintained across the drawing.
- [ ] Alternative styles: valid variations in curl shape or letter style are accepted if the convention remains consistent.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?