



HAIR OF THE DOG

The co-owner of Hue Salon not only does hair for socialites, but also pampers his prized poodle.

By Michele Meyer // Photography by Julie Soefer

The Details

NAME

Celeste

AGE

1 year and 5 months

OWNER

Cion Ortega

BREEDER

Betty Brown, owner of Donnchada Poodles, donnchadapoodles.com. Forty years of dog breeding and producer of 146 American Kennel Club champions

PROVENANCE

Plantersville, Texas

HOME

Houston's Washington Heights

Cion Ortega's poodle is "a snob" after being groomed. "She prances as if she's on a catwalk and doesn't want to be touched," says the pampered pooch's parent and co-owner of Hue Salon. And why not? Ortega may style socialites' tresses by day, but by night he tames the mane of his princess, styling Celeste's 6-inch bouffant into triple top knots or side ponies. "I knew I'd love her, but I had no idea it'd be so much fun," he says. Ortega also hires "the city's best grooming artist," Kellie Black of Well Groomed Pet Salon and Retreat, to sculpt the silver standard poodle's fur every other week. Should his adored lock star get doused in rain while playing outdoors, Ortega bathes Mu—his pet name for her—with Kérastase Bain Nutritive shampoo and Masquintense conditioner, followed by a blow-dry. While he's at work, she stays at Well Groomed's doggy day care. "She's very confident," Ortega says. "She barks, and the other dogs stand at attention." Celeste, who's 16 months old and weighs 44 pounds, has a chauffeur pick her up at 3PM for playtime before daddy gets back to their Washington Heights town house. There, she snacks on blueberries, cashews, almonds and pecans. "She also likes sweets, but I resist. We've got to keep her figure." Celeste also has only the best accessories, like a stunning Swarovski crystal-studded choker Ortega bought her for Valentine's Day. Already the star of his daily life, "Celeste reminds me of a glamorous movie actress like Greta Garbo, or a lady who lunches," says Ortega. On walks in the park, "she attracts really attractive men, which my friends love. She's a good wing girl."