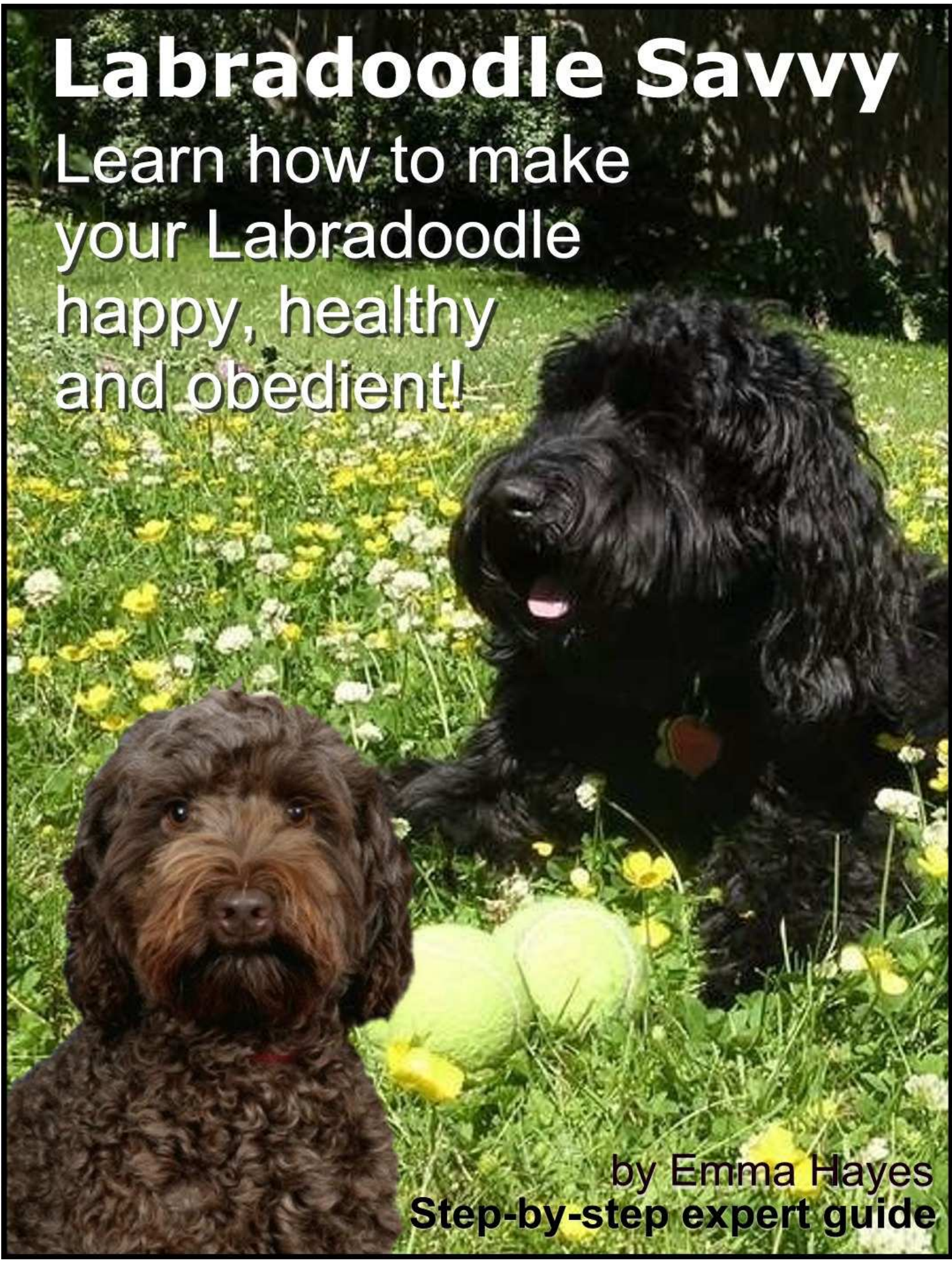


Labradoodle Savvy

Learn how to make
your Labradoodle
happy, healthy
and obedient!

by Emma Hayes
Step-by-step expert guide



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Introduction

Congratulations on purchasing 'Labradoodle Savvy', it contains everything you're going to need to take great care of your Labradoodle and get yourself a happy and well-behaved canine companion.

This is unlike ANY dog book you see on the shelf because it's been researched and written in direct response to the specific needs of Labradoodle owners and by someone with over 39 years experience of working with dogs.

You can now print off this e-book as you wish but, remember, you don't have to print off the whole lot in one go if you don't want to. Many people find that it's sufficient to just print off the sections on training and curing unwanted bad habits and to read the rest on screen. The choice is yours.

Your package also comes with unlimited and free personal email support from me so, if you have any queries or concerns as you work through the book with your dog, just email me and I'll do everything I can to help.

With that said, it's time for to start reading 'Labradoodle Savvy' and see an improvement in your dog!

Good luck and enjoy!

Emma Hayes
August 2007



Labradoodle Dogs At A Glance

Labradoodles are a hybrid dog breed. They are a cross between the two purebred dogs the Standard Poodle and the Labrador Retriever. The Labradoodle is primarily bred as a large dog, but can also come in miniature size. There are also two types of Labradoodles – The American Labradoodle and the Australian Labradoodle. The two are virtually the same; however, this book will be focusing on the American Labradoodle.

Labradoodles are pleasant dogs that are affectionate, noble, obedient, highly sociable, friendly, loving, loyal and comical. This breed loves to engage in play and activity and is extremely docile and non-aggressive. They make excellent family pets and are patient and loving towards children.

Labradoodles were first bred in Australia during the 1970's, and were developed for the purpose of creating a hypoallergenic guide dog. The crossbreeding was successful and the Labradoodle was a healthier, yet perfect mix of the Standard Poodle and Labrador Retriever.

The Labradoodle is very intelligent and is a quick learner. He enjoys a challenge, plenty of play time and loves being outdoors.

Our 4 Paw Rating - to the suitability of Labradoodles for your home and lifestyle



Size 🐾🐾🐾🐾

Regular Labradoodle - Shoulder height 22- 24 inches, weight 45 -77lbs

Miniature Labradoodle – Shoulder height 17-22 inches, weight 30 – 50lbs

Coat Care 🐾🐾🐾🐾

The Labradoodle comes in three different coats:

Fleece: This is the most desirable coat and sheds moderately. An occasional brushing (every few days) will suffice

Wool/Curly: This coat is virtually non-shedding and requires the most maintenance. This coat is the most Poodle-like and requires daily grooming, and the occasional clipping (every few months).

Hair: This highly shedding coat is the easiest to care for, and is more Retriever-like than Poodle. It requires the occasional brush (every few days).

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The fleece and the hair coats should be washed on occasion (every few months), while the wool/curly coat may require monthly bathing.

Family Life 🐾🐾🐾🐾

Loves people, especially children - gets on well with other animals

Lifestyle 🐾🐾🐾

Happy in urban or rural life, as long as sufficient exercise is provided

Health 🐾🐾🐾

Life expectancy 14 - 16 years

Prone to ear infection and hip tests recommended

Exercise 🐾🐾🐾

Lots of exercise needed (at least two 30 minute walks daily plus play time, will go further if given the opportunity!)

Training 🐾🐾🐾

Easy to train and quick to learn what is expected



What Is A Labradoodle?

The Labradoodle is a large, lively, intelligent dog breed. Although they have a short history, they are a highly affectionate, lovable and devoted companion. They need plenty of exercise and may require daily grooming depending on their coat, so you need to prepare yourself for brushing.

They are incredibly smart dogs, and need the right obedience training to develop to their full potential. Labradoodles are generally social to all humans, but favor their family best over all.

Labradoodles are natural born hunters, even though they were not bred for this purpose. The reason is because both of their purebred parents were used throughout history for hunting, primarily for retrieving water fowl and other prey. Their history may be brief, but Labradoodle has been used as -

- Companions
- Guide dogs for the blind
- Therapy dogs for the sick

The American Kennel Club (AKC) categorizes dogs into 7 groups:

- herding
- hound
- non-sporting
- sporting
- terrier
- toy
- working

The Labradoodle is not recognized by any national kennel club and is not listed under any of the above categories. This is due to the fact that the Labradoodle is considered a hybrid, and is, therefore, not a *true breed*. A true breed is one that has defined characteristics that are present each time two dogs of the same breed are bred. These defined characteristics are better known as the “breed standard” and are what define a purebred dog from a hybrid or mutt.

Notice how mutt and hybrid are classified differently? Although you may think a Labradoodle is a mutt due to the fact that it is the result of more than one dog breed, the truth is that a mutt is the term given to a dog when only one purebred is known to have been part of the dog’s heritage. On the other

hand, when a dog is the result of a crossbreed between two known purebreds, it is known as a hybrid.

In truth, all dogs that are considered purebred once began as a hybrid. Breeders simply kept crossing and breeding the dogs until they were able to develop the ideal dog that became the true breed. This is often a long, drawn out process. Therefore, don't be surprised if several years down the road the Labradoodle is recognized as a purebred.

However, even though the Labradoodle is not recognized by the American Kennel Club, their parents are. The Standard Poodle is part of the non-sporting group and the Labrador Retriever is part of the Sporting group. By taking a close look at the history and breed standards of both breeds, you'll get a good idea of where a Labradoodle's roots lie. Also, keep in mind that virtually all hybrids are a perfect mix of both their parents; Labradoodles are no exception.

Since the Labradoodle is not yet a true breed, there are different ways in which the dogs are bred. Each method of breeding produces different characteristics. The following is a run down of the hybrid breeding process:

F1 - Labradoodles made up of 50% Labrador Retriever and 50% Poodle. This is considered a first generation cross and produces the healthiest offspring. The coat can either be a shedding or non-shedding coat, and may appear smooth like a Labrador, wirey like an Irish Wolfhound, or have a shaggy/wavy appearance. This particular cross is not the best choice for those who have dog allergies.

F1-B – For this cross, Labradoodle breeders breed an F1 Labradoodle and a Poodle (Approximately 25% Labrador and 75% Poodle). This breeding produces the Wavy/Curly coat Labradoodle breed. This coat does not shed and has the highest potential of being hypoallergenic.

F2 – These are Labradoodles produced from two F1 Labradoodles. The resulting Labradoodles are very similar to the F1 breed, and are more likely to have a coat that sheds.

F3 – This is when two F2 Labradoodles are crossed. They have similar characteristics to the F2 breed.

Multi-generation – This last type of breeding is when two F3 generation or higher Labradoodles are bred. This is usually the way Australian Labradoodle breeders breed the dog.

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This little book is meant as a quick guide for Labradoodle owners like you to better understand your wisely chosen pet, how to take care and love him, make him happy, keep him healthy, so that he will better understand you and listen to you, love you and make YOU a better person during your incredible life journey together!

Devoted and glad owners of Labradoodles have come up with a long list of attributes and traits of their favorite pet that include:

- Alert
- Brave
- Charming
- Clever
- Companion
- Devoted
- Docile
- Dignified
- Exuberance
- Excellent swimmer
- Family dog
- Friendly
- Highly trainable
- Intelligent
- Intuitive
- Keen judge of character
- Lap Dog
- Loving
- Lovable
- Loyal
- Lively
- Loud
- Mischievous
- Playful
- Quick learner
- Self-assured
- Smart
- Sociable
- Spirited
- Sweet
- Water lover
- Wonderful pet

And you can add to the list...

Labradoodle history

The history of Labradoodles began in the 1970's in Australia. They were first developed by Wally Cochran. Cochran was encouraged to start the cross breed between the Standard Poodle and the Labrador Retriever by a blind woman who suffered from dog allergies. The initial mating of the two breeds was quite successful and three low-allergy pups were produced.

The first hybrids produced surpassed the best qualities of both purebreds. Due to this fact, Labradoodles became extremely popular in Australia and more breeders began crossing the breeds. However, as cross breeding continued, the offspring produced were not consistent. Some were low shedding and allergy-free, while others lacked these qualities.

When it comes to eliminating allergies in a breed, this doesn't only mean producing a dog that sheds little hair. It also means eliminating other allergies such as dander and saliva. The goal was to create a breed of dog that was hypoallergenic but still had high intelligence and a friendly temperament.

Therefore, since it was clear that research was required to produce the desirable Labradoodle, and the dog was in high demand, two research facilities were developed during the 1980's in Australia to create the ideal Labradoodle.

Australian Labradoodles are different than those produced in America because the Australian variety has used other breeds aside from the Standard Poodle and Labrador Retriever. Other dogs that have been used to create the Labradoodle breed in Australia include Wheaton Terriers, Curly Coated Retrievers, Two types of Irish Water Spaniels and a Poodle/Cocker Spaniel cross.

Labradoodles are still under development and, therefore, cannot be declared a true breed. The reason is because a true breed is one that produces consistent characteristics each time to form a standard. Due to the fact that three different types of Labradoodles can be currently bred, for now, they are still only considered a hybrid breed. Thus, the Labradoodle is not recognized by any major kennel clubs and are not part of a specific dog group

Sweet and Friendly Labradoodle

The Labradoodle is a wonderful dog breed, and even though they do not have a specific breed standard, as certain characteristics may change and

Labradoodle Savvy

vary from litter to litter, the following is what you should know when it comes to the specifics of the breed.

Labradoodles are extremely cute and generally look like extra fluffy Labrador Retrievers when puppies and more like a mix between the Poodle and Labrador when fully grown. Adult Labradoodles are between 22-24 inches at the withers and weigh between 45-77 pounds, with females being the smaller of the two.

Labradoodles have broad heads, a medium stop and defined eyebrows. The ears are mildly thick, lay flat against the head and are level with the eyes. Their teeth should form a complete scissor bite. The nose is large and square, and varies in color depending on the dog's pigment.

Their eyes are set well apart and are slightly rounded. They should not protrude or appear sunken. The eyes of Labradoodles should be very expressive, and like the nose, may vary in color based on pigment.

Labradoodles can have black or rose pigmentation. Dogs with black pigment have dark brown eyes and dark noses. Dogs with rose pigment may have green, golden hazel, or brown eyes, and a rose colored nose.

Labradoodles have compact bodies with well sprung ribs. They have a level back that flows into a low set tail that shouldn't curl or droop. Their shoulders are well angled and the elbows are firm. The hind legs are strong and muscular with moderate angulations. All four legs and feet should be straightforward and not turn in or out. They have a jolly gait and are a galloping dog.

Labradoodles are available in three coat varieties:

1. Hair – High shedding coat that is course and not hypoallergenic
2. Curly/Wool – non-shedding coat that is dense, harsh and hypoallergenic.
3. Fleece – Low shedding coat that has a course yet softer texture.

Coat colors are solid and include: Cream, chalk, silver, black, blue, chocolate, café, gold, apricot and red.

Labradoodles are popular dogs that bring much joy to the lives of their owners. They are often a fantastic alternative for those who love the Labrador breed but have been unable to own one for allergy reasons.



Labradoodles As Pets

Pet Labradoodles, are high maintenance dogs that require plenty of grooming. They also require attention, exercise, human interaction, consistent obedience training and lots of love. You cannot leave them to their own design for too long or they get lonely, bored and into trouble.

Labradoodles are highly intelligent and require both physical and mental stimulation. Like any dog, Labradoodles crave and require attention. They also need the proper care and discipline in order for them to develop as a credit to their breed.

How to keep a Labradoodle out of trouble

Their high prey drive (some owners called it play drive) needs proper outlets or they could get destructive as house pets, and tend to fight among themselves especially if the other family Labradoodle are of the same sex and the dogs have not been neutered or spayed. The female, it seems, is more aggressive than the male.

Keeping a Labradoodle busy is the best way to keep them out of trouble! Amuse them with a fun 30 minute walk at least twice per day, as well as some fun playtime. Let them have plenty of exercise, and play with them, especially the inquisitive and high energy puppies. Having a bored puppy is asking for destruction. They need to be properly stimulated to release their pent up energy before it turns to frustration.

For all your love and caring, be prepared for wet slobbery drool and kisses and love in return.

What some proud owners say about their pet Labradoodle

* "Having a Labradoodle is like having another human in a dog body with you. You can talk to Labradoodle and they would understand. They demonstrate feelings just like human does. If they are loved, they will love and protect you."

* "Labradoodles are the most loyal companions. My Labradoodle brings me up when I am down. They are the only dogs for me."

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- * “They are a gift! The two I have are always smiling and they cheer me up when I’m not too happy. They can be your friends for life!”
- * “My Labradoodle can take up my moods or lay quietly by my feet for hours.”
- * “If I treat my Labradoodle puppy as an intelligent animal and talk to him almost like he's human, he is more responsive and better behaved, as though he's picking up on my sentiments by the way I am speaking to him.”
- * “Labradoodle can be very manipulative. They are a lot smarter than they look! Don't get taken in by their innocent-looking face or let them walk all over you no matter how much their eyes make them look like they are truly sorry.”
- * “Bringing a puppy or even an older dog into your home and your life is a major decision. It brings with it responsibility and commitment, but it also renders supreme joy, laughter, and sadly, but inevitably, tears. Not one of us who has ever shared his life with a Labradoodle would have it any other way.”
- * “Labradoodle dogs think they are human. Treat them like one - love them, talk to them, cuddle them and value them and you will get your love back unconditionally 10,000 times.”



So Are You Ready For A Labradoodle?

The answer is “no” if you are the type who mostly leaves your dog on a chain or home alone for hours. Labradoodles require much of your love, attention and companionship. Labradoodles with the wool/curly coat will require daily combing, even if it is clipped short.

One Labradoodle-lover even said to never get one as pet if you work full time!

Another point to consider is that the costs for food, training, grooming, medical care, toys and other supplies do add up.

Labradoodles crave attention

Labradoodles need constant attention and love to be babied. Treat your Labradoodle as your best friend and play, play, play with him.

One three-month old Labradoodle loves her bath more when the owner sings to her. Be it playing, talking or singing to them or taking them for a walk, Labradoodles simply love the attention.

Shower them with love, affection and attention as well as some treats.

This keeps Labradoodles happy. Left to their own devices, Labradoodles can become very destructive when lonely, bored and ignored.

Give extra space when you have to leave a Labradoodle alone over an extended period. They don't like to be locked in a room, nor have any doors closed to them. Therefore, give them plenty of leveled space to run around in and enjoy.

When you have to leave a Labradoodle alone, you better make sure they have a toy they really like or they'll find something to do that you probably really won't like.

Destructive streak in Labradoodles

Labradoodles are often too smart and strong for their own good, and if they're bored and undisciplined they can be a disaster in the house.

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That is why obedience training is important, in order to prevent the destruction of too many of your belongings. Training makes a happier dog.

The accepted temperament for Labradoodles rules out aggression, and extreme shyness in the breed. You want to have these under control in your pet.

Experts suggest that, when adopting a Labradoodle, you should at least check the parent dogs for these undesirable traits before even looking at the puppies.

Labradoodles and aggression

Labradoodles are friendly by nature, and it is extremely rare for them to act aggressive. However if they are not provided with the proper dominance and obedience training, are not socialized properly, ignored or left to their own devices, they may show aggression towards other people, and other animals.

However, it still is rather unlikely for Labradoodles to display aggression. Nevertheless, proper training will deter them from this habit.

Energetic Labradoodles

Labradoodles have high play drives and they need sufficient exercise or they can become excitable and destructive.

Play, play and play with them. Give them extra space especially when you have to leave them alone for long period. Tire them out with long walks and play sessions but within a fenced area or on a leash.

When going for their walks, opt for body harness if you have a Labradoodle that pulls or strays.

Extreme shyness (not to be mistaken with independence)

It's critical to socialize your Labradoodles. When they are still puppies, take them to public places like a pet store so they won't become shy.

Begin training in an area that is familiar to your Labradoodle, where there is minimum distraction. Once both of you are skilled at several obedience commands, take him to practice at different areas with increasing amount of distractions present.

Labradoodle Savvy

This may seem like starting all over again, but it's worth the effort. One family took theirs to the local mini-mart and practiced obedience training right outside, where there were distractions from people.

“Strangers came over and petted him and gave him treats. He met all kinds of people and learned to follow commands despite the distractions, and is a better dog today.”



Choosing Your Labradoodle

An easier and more pleasant journey with your chosen Labradoodle starts with checking out the parent dogs for unbecoming traits like aggression, hyperactivity and extreme shyness.

This is easier to do when you get your Labradoodle from a reputable breeder or from a pet shop that gets their animals only from known breeders.

Exercise prudence if you are getting your Labradoodle puppy from pet stores, which often get their supply from breeders of unknown reputation.

These “puppy mills” as they are called are not known to put much emphasis on the quality and health of pups they are producing.

Reputable breeders would adhere to the accepted standards for Labradoodles in terms of uniformity in the breed, good health, temperament, size and color.

Reputable breeders would be able to show the pedigree and registration papers and/or pictures of the parent dogs that may reside somewhere else. That’s right, even though your Labradoodle is a hybrid, the original purebreds used for his breeder are not. Therefore, a reputable breeder should have the pedigrees of the Standard Poodle and Labrador dogs used in their direct line, even if two Labradoodles are the sire and dam of the litter.

Your other source option is animal shelters that in the US alone receive up to 12 million homeless dogs and cats every year. Paying the adoption fee is a lot cheaper than the price you will pay to a breeder or pet store, and you will be saving a life.

When it comes to choosing male or female Labradoodles, there are not much clear-cut differences in their personalities. Just remember that a male dog who is not neutered generally displays more aggressive behaviors, especially towards other male dogs.



Labradoodles And Your Family

Labradoodles are very family-oriented and always love to be around people. Treat them as family members. Never underestimate their need for human companionship, which is the most notable trait of this breed.

The Labradoodle is happiest when it is with people. Its whole pelvis moves when a Labradoodle wags its tail in delight and exhilaration. It can adapt to any environment as long as it is with people.

They love being with their "families" and don't like to be alone. Include them in your gatherings when company is around.

They love to be your shadow. Labradoodles are intelligent and are quite capable of participating in many family adventures.

Labradoodle dogs are like humans and they need lots of love to feel like a part of the family.

Accept them for what they are and give them time to show how loyal they could be. They are very sensitive animals so never hit them.

Labradoodles and kids

Labradoodles are excellent with children. Labradoodles love to play and are always ready for a romp or game, so make sure you have kids, said one owner.

Introduce the Labradoodle to the children early, as this will bond Labradoodle and child and stop jealousy. You will find the Labradoodle will be more protective towards that child.

Some owners found their Labradoodles love to be around children more than adults.

They are good-natured, accept friendly strangers and are usually patient with curious children who may poke or prod at them. However, a Labradoodle may not tolerate teasing or abusive from a child, even if it is unintentional.

Labradoodles are also generally accepting toward other family pets...accept of course if the other pet happens to be a rodent.



Labradoodle Dog Expenses

If you're thinking of getting a Labradoodle, be sure to budget for more than just the adoption fee or pet-store cost of your new pet. From supplies, to health care, to regular monthly expenses, you should have the whole picture of dog expenses in mind when you make this decision.

That's not to say you need to be a millionaire. Truth is, most people who want a Labradoodle can make it fit their budget and lifestyle. But by thinking ahead about what you'll need money for and by researching those costs, you can make a better informed decision when choosing your dog.

Naturally, costs vary from place to place and from person to person. Some people might want all the latest gadgets and conveniences; others just want the basics. We can't tell you exactly how much a Labradoodle will cost you when all is said and done, but we can tell you a few things you'll need so you can research costs in your area yourself.

Start-up costs

Here is a checklist of the start-up costs and items most often needed by new Labradoodle owners. You should have these necessities on hand before you bring your dog home.

- The cost of your Labradoodle dog, which will vary depending on whether you obtain him from a pet store, a breeder or from a Humane Society or rescue group
- Vaccinations and first veterinarian visit – If you're getting an adult Labradoodle, these costs may be less, but you should go in for an initial check-up
- Collar – a non-tightening collar is perfect for puppies
- Leash - two of different lengths, long and short
- Food and water bowls - stainless steel or ceramic are best as bacteria can thrive on plastic bowls
- Grooming supplies - including brush, nail clippers, shampoo

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- Cleaning supplies - your puppy or dog may have some accidents at first
- Dog bed or blanket – Choose between a nest or pillow bed
- Crate
- A supply of quality food
- Chew toys
- Dog tags
- Dog training classes – recommended for puppies or dogs that need additional training
- Spaying or neutering, if not done already
- Ongoing Expenses

Every month, you will need to budget for food. It's worth mentioning that, obviously, large dogs eat a lot of food.

Veterinarian visits

Labradoodle puppies may need up to 6 or more visits their first year; ask your veterinarian for an estimate of costs. Adult Labradoodles should have an annual checkup unless your veterinarian suggests more.

It's a good idea to have a little money available for emergencies. Like people, dogs can have accidents and illnesses that may require a hospital visit.

Other Possible Expenses

Other items

There are also some optional supplies you might want to consider. These may be necessities in some cases - for example, a dog house is needed if your dog won't be sleeping inside - but you'll have to decide which of these items fit your lifestyle and budget.

- Fence
- Outside kennel

- Dog house
- Doggie door
- Gates - to block off certain rooms or staircases indoors
- Anti-chew spray
- Boots - an option for dogs in snowy areas or who are going to do a lot of walking over rough ground
- Grooming table

More on dog houses

Labradoodles can be happy indoors or outdoors, provided their needs are addressed. A mixture suits most Labradoodles well because they are happiest when they are with you, but they enjoy time outside as well.

If you need to leave your Labradoodle outside, a doghouse is a good idea, remember.

- Labradoodles are den animals. They like a small, confined, safe spot for naps and hanging out. Various designs are available or you can build your own.
- Make it big enough for your Labradoodle, but not too big because heat escapes in a large space. Buy or build one that will be big enough for your grown dog, but while your puppy is growing, block off the extra space with boxes or a sheet of wood. Keep the occupied space appropriate for your dog's size.
- Insulate against both the heat and the cold. The shelter of a roof and walls will protect your Labradoodle from the wind and sun, but use flaps for airflow in the summer and some kind of insulation against the cold air.
- Set or build it off the ground. Raising the doghouse even a few inches will block the cold air rising from the earth and will give added airflow in the hot months. It also helps prevent rotting and keeps water from seeping in.

With a little research, you should be able to find a way to make these expenses fit your needs. And if you have this planning out of the way before

you get your Labradoodle, you'll have more worry-free time to enjoy spending with the newest member of your family.



Labradoodle Beds

When it comes to comfort, nothing will make your Labradoodle happier than having their very own dog bed that they can relax, sleep on and enjoy.

There are three basic styles of dog beds that you can consider, and can be found at local pet stores and online:

1. Nest Beds
2. Pillows
3. Specialty Beds (special shaped, orthopedic, thermal, bolster etc.)

If you are interested in purchasing a bed for your Labradoodle, you will need to make sure that you select a bed that is a size large. Large size nest beds are 24" by 36", while pillows are 45" to 52". As for specialty beds, these beds will vary depending on their shape and size.

When selecting the bed for your Labradoodle it is a good idea to purchase ones that are durable, made of good quality and are machine washable. You will find they come in a variety of colors and patterns, so it shouldn't be hard to pick out the bed that should suit both you and your Labradoodle.

One owner said - "My Labradoodle loves his Bolster bed. It's the perfect size, and is his very own mini floor couch that gives him ideal comfort. It's his favorite resting spot, and was worth every penny."



ID Tags And Registration

Nobody wants to think about losing his or her Labradoodle. But, unfortunately, dogs do get lost. Be prepared. Buy your Labradoodle a collar and some form of identification.

Identification tags are a popular and easy way to identify your Labradoodle. There are abundant options in colors, shapes, and sizes to fit your dog's needs and personality.

The problem with tags is that they can fall off or be removed. Two permanent methods are the microchip and the tattoo.

Microchips

Contained in a capsule, the microchip is a small chip coded with your contact information or an ID number. About the size of a grain of rice, it's injected under your pet's skin with a needle, a procedure no more uncomfortable than a regular shot.

Your information is then put into a national database so if your puppy is lost, identification is easy. Lost pets may be taken to the humane society or animal shelter for scanning identification. It's not as easy as reading a tag on a collar, but it cannot be lost. It's safe, effective, and meets international standards. Check with your local animal shelter or veterinarian for costs and more information.

It's important to keep your contact information current. When you move or change phone numbers, update your registration data.

The only drawbacks to these chips are that not every place has the scanner equipment and the chip may move (harmlessly) around your Labradoodle's body, making it difficult to scan.

Tattoos

A tattoo contains a number that you register with one of the national databases. It can be put on your Labradoodle's inner thigh or earflap. Wait until your dog is fully-grown so the numbers won't grow out of shape. Be sure to tattoo on an area that won't be covered by fur as your Labradoodle's coat matures. It's a simple and quick procedure, but check it periodically for fading. Don't forget to register the number and to keep the contact information current.



Dog Proofing Your Home

Before bringing your Labradoodle dog home, you'll need to 'dogproof' your house. Here's a simple checklist to make sure your home is safe before letting your dog run free.

Make sure all poisonous household items are securely stored out of reach

Put household cleaners, laundry detergents, bleach, disinfectants, insecticides, cleaning fluid, fertilizers, mothballs, antifreeze, insect poisons, rat poisons and other items in cabinets or on high shelves. Read about Home Safety.

Check your plants

Many plants in and around your house can be harmful to your Labradoodle. Did you know that the pits of apricots and peaches, as well as spinach and tomato vines, can make your dog sick and, in large dosages, can even be fatal? Read about Poisonous Plants. You will find a list in "The Dog Lover Guide".

Look at your house from your Labradoodle's point of view

Get down on all fours and look around. Move or remove dangling electric cords, loose nails, plastic bags or other tempting objects that will be in reach.

Pick up buttons, string, sewing needles, pins and other sharp objects, and anything small enough to swallow

If your Labradoodle swallows any of these objects, they may cause damage to the mouth and internal organs. String and other entangling objects, such as curtain pulls, six-pack holders and the like may cause abrasions or strangulation.

Unplug, remove or cover any electrical cords in your dog's confinement area

Chewing on these cords can cause severe mouth burns, electrocution and fires.

Close off balconies, upper porches and high decks

Labradoodle Puppies in particular are so little that they can slip through openings and fall.

In the last few days before arrival, give your house a good cleaning and remove breakable items from areas where your dog will be. Also, spend some time preparing yourself or your family. Small children need to know how to act around puppies and dogs.



Home Safety

To a curious and creative Labradoodle, anything can be a potential toy, treat or prize. But there are many things in the home that can be harmful to your dog. Learning to identify and remove those things from your dog's reach is an important part of creating a safe home for your Labradoodle.

Potential Hazard – Cleaners: Includes household cleaners, bleach, detergents, dryer sheets, soap and more. All of these can have varying levels of toxicity or may burn if touched or consumed.

What You Can Do – Keep all cleaners sealed in their bottles. Store the bottles out of reach or in a latched cabinet. Remember, some dogs can open normal cabinets.

Potential Hazard – Chemicals: Includes automotive fluids, ESPECIALLY antifreeze (which is highly toxic yet very sweet), fertilizers, weed killers, moth balls, oven cleaners and more. These are often extremely toxic.

What You Can Do – Keep any household or automotive chemicals locked away in cabinets or storage areas. If these chemicals are in the garage, don't leave your dog in the garage unsupervised.

Potential Hazard - Foil, Plastic Wrap and Insulation: Materials like these often have tempting food particles or grease on them, but shred quickly and are easily swallowed. Any of these materials can cause serious internal problems, especially insulation, which is often made with fiberglass.

What You Can Do – Don't leave foil, wrap, insulation or similar materials lying around the house. If you use foil or wrap in the kitchen, throw it away someplace your dog cannot reach. If installing insulation or doing construction, clean up all scraps.

Potential Hazard – Pest Control: Bug traps, rodent traps, foggers, insecticides – even your dog’s own flea medicine. All of these are designed to kill or trap, and can cause harm to your dog. Insect traps are often sweet, which is an extra temptation.

What You Can Do – Store these items in a locked or latched cabinet. If you have to leave insect traps out, make sure they’re in places your dog can’t get at them.

Potential Hazard – Drugs: Whether over the counter or prescription, or even your dog’s own prescriptions, drugs can cause serious problems in the case of an overdose. And don’t assume that ‘mild’ drugs are OK – even aspirin can cause serious problems.

What You Can Do: Keep all medications in sealed containers away from your dog’s reach. NEVER self-medicate your dog. Only give drugs to your dog as instructed by a veterinarian.

Potential Hazard – Chocolate: This sweet treat can be toxic even in relatively small amounts. A half-ounce of baking chocolate or less per pound of dog can be toxic.

What You Can Do – Don’t give your dog chocolate. Keep it out of reach, and don’t leave it out where your dog can reach it.

Potential Hazard – Plants: Many household plants are bad for dogs and can cause problems ranging from stomach upsets to much more serious consequences. For a list, see our information on Poisonous Plants.

What You Can Do – Review the list of poisonous plants and make sure none of those plants are in places where your dog can reach them. Supervise your dog when you introduce a new plant to make sure your dog isn’t tempted to take a bite.

Potential Hazard – Wires: While they seem like fun toys, wires that carry a current can electrocute a dog if chewed. Even non-connected wires are troublesome – if swallowed, they can cause internal damage.

What You Can Do – Keep cords for lamps and other devices as short as possible. If you have to use extension cords, tack them to the baseboard so they’re harder to chew.

Potential Hazard – Sharp Objects: Knives, forks, paper clips and sharp bits of plastic are among the hazards often found in the house. They can be

swallowed and cause unseen harm, or a romping dog could suffer cuts or punctures.

What You Can Do – Keep these items away from you dog. If you see your dog chewing such an item, get it out of his mouth immediately.

Potential Hazard – Universal Dangers: There are, of course, many other dangers that apply to humans as well as dogs. Falls, carbon monoxide poisoning, lead paint – if it can harm a person, it most likely can harm a dog.

What You Can Do – Keep your house as safe as you would for a child. And remember – dogs won't grow up and learn not to do certain things. Keeping a safe home is a lifelong commitment.



First Aid

Accidents happen. When one happens to your dog, you may need to perform some first aid to stabilize or comfort your pet until you can get to professional help. Remember, first aid should not be the only aid your Labradoodle receives.

In an emergency

In an emergency, keep a level head and get your dog to the veterinarian quickly. Call first. If your doctor's office is not open, call the nearest emergency pet clinic. Keep emergency phone numbers near your telephone.

Some quick tips on common injuries and issues:

General Injuries: Wrap your dog in a heavy towel or blanket to keep him warm and restrict his movements.

Not Breathing: Unless you have been trained to administer CPR, it is best and safest to seek immediate veterinary care. (If you want to learn pet CPR, ask your veterinarian to recommend a program in your area.)

Bleeding: Apply a pressure bandage (sterile gauze or a handkerchief) to stem or stop bleeding.

Burn: Apply a cold compress or ice to a burn and gently hold it there until you get to the clinic.

Poison: Call your veterinarian or poison control immediately to determine if vomiting should be induced.

Choking: At any sign of choking (drooling, difficulty swallowing, pawing at the mouth, gagging) don't attempt to remove the item.

Heatstroke: Take your dog to a cool spot and sponge him with cold water. Encourage him to drink small amounts of water.

Frostbite: Get your dog in a warm place. Apply warm moist towels to frostbitten areas. Change them until the area becomes flushed. Severe frostbite damages paws and ear tips so see your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Fever: Check your dog's temperature. If it's above 103° degrees, get to your veterinarian for medication or advice. Read about taking your dog's temperature

In ALL Cases: It's worth repeating: Get to your veterinarian. Even small cuts can become big problems due to infection, and there can be internal injuries you can't see and your dog can't tell you about.

First aid kit

Having some supplies ready in case of an emergency is a good idea. You won't have to go searching for what you need at a time of crisis. There's no need to replicate a veterinary hospital, but these basic items will come in helpful.

- Antibiotic ointment for cuts and scrapes
- A rectal thermometer – your dog's separate from everyone else's
- Tweezers – to remove thorns, stingers, splinters
- Wrap-style bandages and padding
- A blanket or large towel to wrap your dog



Your Labradoodles First Week Home

When you bring home a new Labradoodle dog or puppy, there will need to be some time for adjustment. By following these tips, you can lay the foundation for a long and happy life together and make the transition as easy as possible for everyone involved.

Plan ahead

Make all your purchases ahead of time so you have supplies, food, toys and everything you need ready to go, and have your house ready for your newcomer. Read about items you need to have and how to prepare your home.

Make time

The best time to bring your new Labradoodle home is at the beginning of a weekend. If possible, add a few vacation days. This gives you time to acquaint your dog with its new home and begin housetraining and other training.

Choose a name

Agree on a name ahead of time and make sure everyone uses it all the time when talking to your Labradoodle. This will help him recognize his name and avoid confusion.

See the Veterinarian

As soon as possible after you acquire your new Labradoodle, take your new pet to your veterinarian. Bring any immunization information you may have received when you acquired your pet to your veterinarian to begin a case history for future reference.

Get everyone on board

Once in his new home, remember that your Labradoodle is adjusting to strange new surroundings and people. Children can become especially excited. Explain to them that their new friend needs time out for naps. Show children how to play nicely.

Be a leader

Simple things like always walking through doors ahead of your Labradoodle and eating in your Labradoodle's presence before you feed him make you look like a 'pack leader.' This will make it easier for your dog to accept that you (and your family) are in charge.

Feed your Labradoodle

It is best to bring home the pet food that your new Labradoodle has been eating to make the transition to a new home as easy as possible. New sights, new environment and all the attention can be very stressful. The only familiar thing may be the food he has been eating. If you plan to switch foods, you can minimize digestive upsets by having enough of the old food available to make the change a gradual one. Place food in the spot where the food dish will be kept to set a routine. If your Labradoodle doesn't seem to be eating, try moistening the food with water to make it easier to eat.

Be fair

Never hit your Labradoodle. Never scold for something your puppy did a while ago. Your puppy will have no idea what the problem is and will think that you are mad for no reason. Instead, encourage the behavior you want and prevent the ones you do not. It's a much more productive approach. Learn more about behavior issues and how to address them.

Get out

Begin socializing your Labradoodle puppy as soon as your veterinarian gives the OK. Take him out and gradually introduce him to new people and other dogs in controlled, safe settings. It is one of the most important things you can do for him. It teaches him to be a good citizen and gives him confidence and social skills.

Make introductions

Introduce your new Labradoodle to resident pets in controlled situations – if the resident pet is a dog, perhaps on neutral ground where neither will feel the need to defend territory. Give each pet its own food dish, and give all pets attention to avoid competition.

Do's and don'ts

Avoid bringing home a new Labradoodle during busy times such as birthdays and holidays. The noise and confusion may frighten the pet. Family members are generally too busy with the festivities to devote adequate time to help your dog become comfortable in his new home.

Do make sure your entire family knows how to act, and agree on commands and rules. Complete cooperation of all family members is ideal. When a Labradoodle receives mixed signals, it can become confused and not know what to do.

Do have fun. Labradoodles of all ages love a good time.



Choosing A Name For Your Labradoodle

Coming up with a name for your new Labradoodle is never easy. Do you keep a family tradition? Bend to the latest fashion? Honor a hero? Or come up with something wacky and altogether new?

A name can say a lot. Take Fido. The name is a classic "dog" name - but why? The name goes back to the Latin "fides" which meant "trustworthiness" or "protection." It's also the root of words like "fidelity" and "confidante."

Some starting points for this discussion can be historical figures, family members, mythical figures, qualities of your Labradoodle (his temperament or coloring), characters from books, film, or television or anything else that you might have an interest in.

Here are a few suggestions:

Keep it simple

One to three syllables is usually about right. Time can be of the essence when you're calling your dog; calling out a complicated name can slow things down and simply become tiresome.

It shouldn't rhyme with your negative words

If you say "No" to your dog, you may want to skip names like Flo or Joe as they can sound a bit too close to "No".

Choose a name you really like

You're going to be saying it for up to the next fifteen years, if you're lucky. So take your time and select something you'll enjoy saying for the next decade or more.

Make it his word

Use his name when you speak to your puppy. Reward him with affection and a kibble or two when he hears it and soon he will come running when he hears his special word.



Socializing Your Labradoodle

Socialization is an ongoing process throughout your Labradoodle's life, but the most critical period is before six months of age. Quite literally, socialization means making your dog sociable.

Socializing your Labradoodle puppy means providing quality time. Give him lots of attention and affection. Pet him and call him by his chosen name. Introduce him to your neighbors and "service people" such as the mail carrier and others who come to your home regularly. Show children how to pet him.

Socializing your puppy to other dogs is important, but this does not mean letting him run free in the neighborhood. Give your puppy the opportunity for safe, controlled interaction with dogs whose owners you know and be sure the dogs are immunized. For a Labradoodle puppy, this includes introducing him in happy ways to all sorts of people, places and things. Here are a few things you can do:

- Go to training classes
- Visit dog-loving friends
- Take your puppy on errands with you in temperate weather. (As always, never leave your dog in the car in warm weather. It can become unbearably hot quickly.)
- Invite people over to your house

Socialization isn't about forcing your puppy into scary situations but rather about creating pleasant associations with new events and faces. Things to keep in mind:

- What a Labradoodle puppy learns early in life stays with him for life.
- Between one month and three months old, a Labradoodle puppy gets almost all of his adult sensory, motor and learning abilities.
- The more loving interaction you have with your Labradoodle, the better.
- Include a little work in your play times and a lot of play in your work times. Make learning fun!

As soon as your veterinarian says it is safe, introduce him to the sights and sounds of his world. Make this fun by praising him and giving him a kibble when he explores his world.

Grooming

Grooming and handling daily throughout your Labradoodle's life help make him a calmer, better-behaved, more tolerant companion. Make grooming a special time for you and your dog. Whether he needs it or not, brush him daily with much affection and reassurance so he learns to love this time together.

Handling his paws, tail, ears and mouth.

When your Labradoodle puppy is tired, gently handle his paws, look in his ears, and open his mouth. Use your finger to gently massage his gums. This prepares him for having his teeth brushed. Praise him warmly when he allows these things. Get him used to all this early and grooming him later in life will be easier.

Feeding

Utilize every opportunity to socialize your Labradoodle puppy. Make feeding time a happy experience by praising your puppy for being a good dog as you place his dish on the floor. Considerable puppy-owner bonding can occur through positive feeding experiences.

Feeding can also aid in training your puppy. As you place his food dish on the floor, give the command, 'Come.' This introduces your puppy to an obedience command in a very positive way.

As you socialize and train your puppy, remember that puppies are eager to please. Reward your puppy for good behavior by praising him. A little praise goes a long way in helping your Labradoodle puppy become an endearing companion.



Labradoodle Dog Intelligence

Labradoodle dog intelligence can be measured several ways: how well or how quickly your dog can understand your meaning, figure out ways around obstacles or recognize people and things. But intelligence should not be confused with being a good companion. Smart does not always equal trainable. A smart Labradoodle might very well understand you but still choose to do something else.

The important quality of a companion dog is that he wants to please you. After all, most basic training involves conditioning your Labradoodle to listen to a command, but doesn't require that your dog 'understand' the command in the way a person does.

Some signs of intelligence are easy to spot. For example, watch how your Labradoodle uses his paws. Using paws to reach for or retrieve a ball that has rolled under a couch is one sign of intelligence.

One popular test is to show your Labradoodle a new toy, then set it on the floor and cover it with a towel. Labradoodles of above-average intelligence will make the connection between the towel and the toy and look for their toy. Other Labradoodles will think the toy simply disappeared and never look for it.

Evidence of memory can be seen in how your Labradoodle greets people he has met before. A Labradoodle with a stronger memory will not need to go back through the introduction process and will become comfortable with the visitor quickly.

Wherever your Labradoodle falls on the intelligence scale, remember that intelligence is developed through practice, just as it can be in humans. The more involved your Labradoodle is in your life, the more time you spend training and working with your dog, the more intelligent he's likely to be.

And regardless of intelligence, the important thing to know is that your Labradoodle wants to please you. Unless you really need or want a dog that can figure out how to open the refrigerator, intelligence can be overrated. For most families, the qualities to look for are gentle, tolerant and devoted - those are what make a family dog one-in-a-million.



Understanding Labradoodle Puppies

Your Labradoodle puppy is a pack animal, and he still follows the call of the wild. Your family is your puppy's pack. Who will be the leader and who will be the follower?

There are some ways to set yourself and your family up as top dog. You want to earn your puppy's respect. That can mean being firm, but always fair.

Labradoodle puppies do feel fear, but it's not useful for your dog to fear you.

Never hit your dog

Labradoodle puppies don't have the ability to link cause and effect abstractly; that is, remember a past action and link it to your present reaction. Never scold for something your puppy did a while ago. Your puppy will have no idea what the problem is and will think that you are mad for no reason. Only correct your Labradoodle when caught in the act.

Because Labradoodle puppies are pack animals, they crave your attention and approval. Use this to your advantage when teaching your Labradoodle.

Take the time to teach your Labradoodle puppy what you want. A puppy arrives in our world, often having just been born two or three months earlier. We should not expect him to understand anything but to love us. We get to teach him the rest - using persistence, patience and affection to shape him into the companions that we want and he is capable of becoming.

Your Labradoodle puppy's senses

When you notice the way your Labradoodle puppy reacts in situations, remember that Labradoodles live in a world that looks, smells and sounds quite a bit different than ours. You might think a situation seems quiet and safe, but your Labradoodle may sense something you do not that causes agitation - a sound too high-pitched for you to hear or the scent of another animal you can't detect.

Labradoodles can see with less light, detect motion, and see flickering light better than humans, but the clarity of their distance vision is typically poorer. The popular theory that dogs only see shades of gray may not be true. Some

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theories suggest they see blues and yellows but can't see reds and greens as humans do.

A Labradoodle's hearing is more sensitive than yours. They hear higher pitches and lower volumes. Labradoodles are able to register sounds of 35,000 vibrations per second compared with 20,000 per second in humans. This sensitive hearing can alert you to visitors or danger, but it also means you should take care with loud noises, and be patient when your Labradoodle howls at a train whistle or siren.

A Labradoodle puppy's sense of smell is much more acute than a human's - tens of thousands of times more acute by some estimations.

We'll never fully understand what their world looks like, smells like or sounds like, just as Labradoodle dogs will never even be able to understand how different our world is. But we both understand one thing: affection. Kindness crosses all barriers and lessens all differences.



Schedules For You Labradoodle Dog

Because Labradoodles are creatures of habit, schedules are very important. You need to schedule when to feed, water, exercise and take your dog outdoors to eliminate.

Why schedule?

For one thing, schedules will make your Labradoodle happy. Knowing what will happen and when it will happen gives your dog a sense of security. Also, schedules make it easier to train and control your Labradoodle. Housetraining in particular is generally easier with a schedule, supervision and encouragement.

Scheduling food and water

Feed your Labradoodle at the same time every day, whether you feed your dog once a day or more often. After 15 minutes, take away any uneaten food. Water should always be available.

If you know when your Labradoodle ate and drank you will have a pretty good idea when he will need to go outside. You will also be training his digestive system as well, which will help take some of the guesswork out of housetraining.

Scheduling elimination

Remember preventive training - it's always best to think ahead. Take your Labradoodle outside when you think he might have to eliminate, rather than wait too long and run the risk of an accident indoors. The more times your Labradoodle eliminates outdoors where you want him to, the slimmer the chance for him to have an accident indoors. The clearer the picture to your dog, the quicker he will catch on to what you want. Labradoodles really want to please you and you can show them how to do it.

Always accompany your new Labradoodle outdoors. That way, you can take him to a pre-selected area in your yard to eliminate, therefore doing away with the habit of smelling the whole yard to find the desired area. You will also be assured that your Labradoodle has eliminated before bringing him indoors, and you can praise him.

Elimination schedules for Labradoodle puppies

Labradoodle puppies need to go out frequently. At eight weeks old, a trip outside every two to three hours during the day is suggested. By four months that can be about every four to five hours. Most puppies can make it through the night by four months of age or a bit older. By nine months or so, most Labradoodles can get by on three or four trips outside a day, though more are always appreciated. As your Labradoodle gets into its senior years, these trips will need to be increased again.

Scheduling exercise and play

Exercise is important for all Labradoodles. Many adult Labradoodles are either overweight or likely to get that way due to diet and lack of an exercise program. Lack of exercise can cause Labradoodles to exhibit destructive chewing behavior because they become bored or are trying to burn off excess energy. Taking your dog for a 15-20 minute walk can help socialize him, give you a chance to bond while doing something together, and is a great way for you to get some exercise, too.



Labradoodles And Discipline

Most would agree that the day you bring the Labradoodle puppy home, you must already pick the direction in which you want to go with him.

Disciplining one is a matter of thinking and working a step ahead of your Labradoodle. Do it with love, gentleness but firmness as well.

Also, a Labradoodle that is well behaved today may not remain so forever. Dog's behavior constantly changes; new problems can always develop and existing ones could get worse. So make the discipline constant.

Training your Labradoodle is the most important thing you will do for him and for yourself in order to have a much better relationship together.

A trained Labradoodle will listen and can safely be allowed freedom more than an untrained one.

A disciplined and well-trained Labradoodle is more confident and makes a wonderful companion that is smart, expressive, people friendly and a pleasure to live with.

A poorly trained dog can be a loud and destructive nuisance around the house that weighs on you more like a commitment and responsibility rather than a blessing.

Teach them young

Teach them young when the Labradoodles don't know any better rather than stressing them out when they are older and more difficult to control.

It is not fair on your Labradoodle to let him pull on the leash when he is a small puppy and this doesn't hurt your hand, then to scold and shout at him if he does the same when he is stronger and makes your arms feel like falling off the joints. It is not fair on your dog and certainly not fair on you.

Start the training some place that is familiar to your Labradoodle, where there is minimum distraction.

But remember socialization is also an important part of the training because you don't want to end up with a very shy Labradoodle.

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So after both of you are skilled at several obedience commands, start taking him to different areas for practice, where there are increasing amount of distractions present. Examples are near a supermarket, busy parking lot and a busy park on Sundays. This may seem like starting all over again but you'll have a superbly trained dog at the end of it. So it's worth the effort.

Keep in mind Labradoodles are intelligent

Being an intelligent dog has its own advantages and drawbacks.

They are quick to learn.

It also means Labradoodles have a mind of their own that would sometimes show up as stubbornness. Thus, they can be harder to train than most other dogs due to their independence.

Understand Labradoodle's intelligence/stubbornness, handle it well, and you can avoid problems in disciplining and training them.

As owners, you must maintain respect between you and your Labradoodles. Respect goes both ways.

Respect their intelligence. Love them. Set the rules for behavior. Trust them. There is no need for extreme measures to show Labradoodles that you are the top dog.

Handle their hard-headedness with patient and don't give up on their training.

And because they are stubborn, conventional obedience training may not be the most effective way to get them to listen to you.

Utilize their high play drive

Utilize their high play drive for more effective obedience training.

Conduct "play training" where by the training tasks are made into fun games and the Labradoodle's high play drive is used as motivation. There are a lot of really good books available on this type of training.

Basically Labradoodles are intelligent and could be stubborn. So you have to outwit them!

Labradoodle Savvy

While training your Labradoodle, you have to make him WANT to do what you want him to. You can't make him do stuff unless it is FUN. Otherwise you are wasting both your time and his.

Your Labradoodle's favorite activities should become training, so that training becomes his favorite activity.

Labradoodles LOVE to play! You will have the happiest Labradoodle in the world and most obedient if you will just spend some time, giving them your undivided attention everyday. Otherwise they feel ignored, bored and will tear or chew things up and will not listen to you.

Some tried and proven tactics you can use to make your Labradoodles listen to you more.

* When playing with your Labradoodle puppy, play at his level.

If play is encouraged at ground level, this builds your role as the dominant or top dog when you are standing and training your puppy. If the puppy is allowed to jump up and initiate play, then this can lead to unwanted jumping up as the Labradoodle gets older.

* From the very beginning, make sure your Labradoodles know you are the master.

However, it suffice to teach your Labradoodle to obey simple commands of raising a paw in a handshake, giving a hand lick for a kiss or doing a roll over to show his submission to you. Most Labradoodles love performing these simple tricks (obedience commands) for you.

There is no need for extreme measures to prove you are the boss. Obedience training should be fun and rewarding for you and your Labradoodle.

* Once it is established you are the boss, one owner declared: "Life with your Labradoodle will be just kidney bean dancin' all the way!" Another reported: "My Labradoodle wanted to be class clown at obedience class until I got serious and showed him I was the boss."

* The Labradoodle must always eat after you do.

Labradoodle Savvy

This is the easiest way to show to your Labradoodle who is the boss. But this is easier said than done when there are many people in the family and not all would respect the rule.

* Very active young Labradoodles have short attention span.

It is best to have many short 5 to 10-minute lessons than a single, long 30-minute lesson. Keep the training session short and sweet. Lengthy session easily becomes dull, boring and tedious for both you and the Labradoodle.

* Start the training at quiet places familiar to your Labradoodle with very few things and people around to distract him.

Gradually move the training to places with more and more distractions so he will learn to obey your commands despite the distractions.

* Speak to your Labradoodle strongly but not in an angry voice.

Be kind but be firm while training and never give in to what they want. It seems cruel but in the long run you will have a much better relationship with you Labradoodle.

* Celebrate after every training session for a good job done.

Have a big play by running and throwing his favorite toys. If you give them a lot of playtime with yourself they'd listen to you more.

* Use only one word like "sit," "down," "drop" and "stay" when teaching Labradoodles commands. For example, when your Labradoodle gets on the lounge with you, say "sit - down" and he should sit then lay down on your lap.

* To keep a Labradoodle from charging the front door, put up a door/gate that he can't see through or hop over.

Have him wait till people enter and come up the stairs then he gets a treat. This particular owner noticed that even when the gate is left open the Labradoodles don't usually go by unless they see a squirrel or cat!

* Finally, no matter how well trained you think your Labradoodle is, he has an attention span of seconds!

Don't let him run away because he'll just keep going and going. Always keep him leashed outdoors if not in a fenced area. He can run faster than you and you will not catch him if he runs for the road!



Becoming A Pack Leader

There is no equality in dogdom. You're either ahead or behind your Labradoodle in line and that is decided by how you interact with your dog. Being a good leader means being calm, kind and consistent. Here are a few suggestions:

Teach your Labradoodle to control his mouth. If he mouths or nips you, react with a startling "No biting!" This will teach him that you are not another puppy and he needs to treat you differently.

Have him 'sit' or 'down' before you give him anything he wants, from petting to tossing a toy. When he responds to you before you respond to him, he will start to look to you to set the rules, while at the same time getting in daily training practice.

Practice submission exercises daily. These include holding him in your arms or on his side and speaking to him gently until he stops squirming. When he stops, release him, praise and give him a kibble of food. Gently handle his ears, mouth and paws so he learns to accept this. These exercises are easy with most Labradoodles but if your dog really struggles or gets upset, seek assistance from a qualified dog professional.

Use tone of voice to communicate. A higher than normal pitch is exciting and playful and perfect for praise. A normal tone - direct and confident – is your command tone. A lowered voice your Labradoodle hears as a warning, like a growl. With practice, your puppy can learn to understand your mood through your tone of voice.

When you get home, you and your family should eat in your Labradoodle's presence before setting out the dog food. Among dogs, the most important dogs always eat first.

Walk through doors first.

Remember: Pack leaders NEVER share their food with other dogs. If you follow all of the steps above and then give your dog table scraps and bites of your sandwich you are sending mixed signals to your Labradoodle.

If you do these things consistently, you can elevate yourself in your Labradoodle's eyes, which can make all the difference in training.



Housebreaking Your Labradoodle Puppy

Whilst housebreaking your Labradoodle puppy may not be a priority in choosing a new dog it usually springs to the top once the little chap gets home! I am often surprised at the number of people who find house training puppies so hard.

When you bring a new Labradoodle dog or puppy home, you should move to establish a routine as soon as possible. The faster you get things on track, the fewer mistakes you'll have to clean up. Although there are different strategies and ways of housetraining a puppy or dog, the following instructions are a good way to teach your pet to eliminate outdoors.

House training step by step

Housetraining can take different amounts of time for different Labradoodles. But by applying schedules, setting boundaries for where elimination is acceptable, a verbal command, praise and crate training, you should see progress over time.

The good news is that you can banish the idea of having a house full of smelly old newspapers for the first 6 months of puppy potty training!

Labradoodles like most animals are naturally born/raised in a 'nest' environment and will want to move away from the 'nest' to complete their potty functions. This makes housebreaking puppies easier than you may think. Most dogs will start doing this by themselves after about 3 weeks - your job is to make sure that when they start this natural process, they know where the 'right place' to go is!

Consistency and perseverance are the watch words for all types of training, and especially for housebreaking puppies. For successful puppy potty training it is essential that each time an activity changes you take your puppy/dog outside to the nominated place to do his 'business':

- Every hour up to the age of about 8/9 weeks
- Shortly after each feed
- After playing
- After exercise
- After any other excitement (visitors etc)

- Last thing at night
- First thing in the morning

Corrections and punishments for indoor accidents will only teach your puppy not to eliminate around you (even when outdoors), but won't stop him from eliminating indoors when you're not around. If you catch the puppy in the act, say 'No!' sharply and carry the puppy outside.

Warning Avoid giving your Labradoodle the message that relieving himself is wrong. Don't rub his nose in the mess, and don't hit him with a newspaper.

When house training dogs praise is absolutely critical, and the praise must be for the act of doing the business - not for going outside or for coming back in - dogs associate actions with praise - so catching them in the act is key to all successful training.

Choose some words that you will use for each act and stick with them - this will pay dividends throughout your dog's life. Remember to choose words you are happy to use in public!

Make sure you feed your Labradoodle at regular times everyday as this makes bathroom breaks regular as well. Feed your puppy 2-3 times a day.

As soon as he is finished eating, take him to a grassy "potty area". Speak the words "go potty" or "go in the grass" before and while he is eliminating. Be sure to praise him when he is done.

What you are doing is building word associations with your Labradoodle that will allow you to encourage his potty activity on command.

This comes in handy when you and your Labradoodle are at unusual locations and at pit stops during long haul travel. It also saves you from cleaning unwanted fecal material off the carpet at home.

In the early days of housebreaking your Labradoodle it is important to let your puppy/dog out during the night. You will quickly learn to recognize the difference between cries for attention and cries for a real need - this is the only way your puppy/dog can let you know, so it is vital that you respond. However, this night time requirement must be for business only, praise for doing the job and then straight back to bed - just like with children. If you are not strict with this, you will very quickly find yourself with a night time play routine which your puppy/dog will adore!

It is a good idea to train your puppy to use a place where you can easily clean up and dispose of the droppings into the sewer. This is because worms that infect dogs and make them sick get spread around through the eggs or larvae found in the feces. Some, like the roundworm, can also infect children.



House Training Accidents

Housetraining accidents can be frustrating but finding a mistake in the house can mean more than that your dog simply isn't housetrained. Before you blame your Labradoodle, look at all the possible reasons.

Why Labradoodle dogs have accidents

Once you find the cause of a dog's accidents, a solution often becomes evident.

Common causes include:

- A medical condition such as a urinary tract infection or parasites. If your dog urinates small amounts frequently, suspect a urinary tract infection and contact your veterinarian.
- Territorial marking. If your Labradoodle is lifting his leg in the house, he may be marking his territory. This is a behavior training issue, not a housetraining issue.
- Anxiety or fear caused by being alone or some outside event like construction or loud noises.
- Confusion about what is expected, which means your Labradoodle is not actually housetrained.

Solving the problem

Step one to resolving this problem is finding the cause and your first stop is the veterinarian. Once a medical condition is ruled out, then these basic steps should help get you back on track.

- Schedule food, water and exercise. This will help make the digestive system more predictable.

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- Consider crate training.
- Try to catch him in the act and distract him by saying “Ahhh” or "No" in a serious tone. This should stop him in mid-stream. Then take him outside to finish the job.
- Always praise your Labradoodle and offer a kibble of food as a treat for relieving himself where and when you want. This will strengthen and reinforce good habits.
- Clean up accidents with a good odor remover so no lingering smell attracts him back to that spot.
- Make sure your Labradoodle isn't left alone too long. If you work, either come home midday, hire a walker, or leave your pup in a small area on papers (Don't put papers inside a crate).

If your Labradoodle is having accidents the moment he or she is left alone, please seek the help of a qualified dog trainer or behavior professional, as this may be a sign of separation anxiety.

Do's and don'ts

- Do get Labradoodle puppies outside at least six times a day, adult dogs at least four.
- Don't punish your dog after the fact – you'll just give your Labradoodle another source of fear, which could lead to more accidents.
- Do go out with him to praise and reward him for going outside.
- Don't rub your Labradoodle's nose in the mess - this will scare him.
- Do control where and when your Labradoodle goes to the bathroom by using a crate, regular routine and close supervision.



Crate Training Your Labradoodle

Most Labradoodle dog owners do not use crates for their Labradoodles, however most expert trainers and vets recommend them.

Providing your Labradoodle puppy or dog with an indoor kennel crate can satisfy many dogs' need for a den-like enclosure. Besides being an effective housebreaking tool (because it takes advantage of your Labradoodle's natural reluctance to soil its sleeping place), it can also help to reduce separation anxiety, to prevent destructive behavior (such as chewing furniture), to keep a puppy away from potentially dangerous household items (i.e., poisons, electrical wires, etc.), and to serve as a mobile indoor dog house which can be moved from room to room whenever necessary.

A kennel crate also serves as a travel cabin for you Labradoodle when traveling by car or plane. Additionally, most hotels which accept dogs on their premises require them to be crated while in the room to prevent damage to hotel furniture and rugs.

Most Labradoodles which have been introduced to the kennel crate while still young grow up to prefer their crate to rest in or "hang-out" in. Therefore a crate (or any other area of confinement) should NEVER be used for the purpose of punishment.

We recommend that you provide a kennel crate throughout your Labradoodle's lifetime. Some crates allow for the removal of the door once it is no longer necessary for the purpose of training. The crate can be placed under a table, or a table top can be put on top of it to make it both unobtrusive and useful.

Why crate train your Labradoodle?

Here are seven good reasons why you should used a crate for your Labradoodle.

1. Dogs in the wild live in a den which provides protection and a great deal of psychological satisfaction. All dogs, including Labradoodles, have a strong natural tendency to seek out this type of shelter.
2. In your home, if your dog has no place to call his own, he will make feeble attempts to curl up under a table, a chair or some other choice location.

3. When you use a crate, you give your Labradoodle a place to feel secure...something to get his back up against. He won't feel isolated because the crate provides essential visibility & ventilation. Just like a baby in a playpen.
4. You will also be taking advantage of your Labradoodles natural instinct to keep his home clean, therefore, when he has to "go" he will try to hold it until you can take him outside to the proper area. This will teach him a schedule and help him eliminate accidents.
5. With a crate, your Labradoodle puppy will have fewer behavioral problems like excessive barking and chewing.
6. Crates make comfortable and safe places for your Labradoodle to travel in.
7. But most of all, by providing him a safe and secure home, he'll be happier and more self confident.

Buying a crate

Where to buy a crate: Crates can be purchased through most pet supply outlets, through pet mail order catalogs and through most professional breeders. There are a number of crate manufactures like Midwest and Vari-Kennels.

Your dog should be able to stand up and turn around comfortably. Individual dogs within a breed can vary in size. You may decide a crate one size larger than the recommended crate size might be best for your Labradoodle. A Labradoodle requires a crate with a depth of 42". A crate with this depth is designed to support a dog that weighs up-to 90 pounds.

Crates can cost between \$35 and \$250 depending on the size and the type of crate and the source.

The cost of not using a crate:

- Your shoes
- Books
- Table legs
- Chairs and sofas
- Throw rugs and carpet, and
- Electric, telephone and computer wires.

- The real cost, however, is **your Labradoodle's safety and your peace of mind.**

Location of your Labradoodles crate

Whenever possible, place the crate near or next to you when you are home. This will encourage your Labradoodle to go inside it without his feeling lonely or isolated when you go out. A central room in the apartment (i.e.: living room or kitchen) or a large hallway near the entrance is a good place to crate your puppy.

Preparing the crate

Vari-Kennel Type: Take the crate apart, removing the screws, the top and the door. Allow your pup to go in and out of the bottom half of the crate before attaching the top half. This stage can require anywhere from several hours to a few days. This step can be omitted in the case of a young puppy who accepts crating right away.

Wire Mesh Type: Tie the crate door back so that it stays open without moving or shutting closed. If the crate comes with a floor pan, place a piece of cardboard or a towel between the floor (or crate bottom) and the floor pan in order to keep it from rattling.

Furnishing your Labradoodle puppy's crate

Toys and Treats: Place your Labradoodle's favorite toys and dog treats at the far end opposite the door opening. These toys may include the "Tuffy", "Billy", "Kong", "Nylabone" or a ball. Toys and bails should always be inedible and large enough to prevent their being swallowed. Any fragmented toys should be removed to prevent choking and internal obstruction. You may also place a sterilized marrow bone filled with cheese or dog treats in the crate.

Water: A small hamster-type water dispenser with ice water should be attached to the crate if your puppy is to be confined for more than two hours in the crate.

Bedding: Place a towel or blanket inside the crate to create a soft, comfortable bed for the puppy. If your puppy chews the towel, remove it to prevent him from swallowing or choking on the pieces. Although most Labradoodle puppies prefer lying on soft bedding, some may prefer to rest on a hard, flat surface, and may push the towel to one end of the crate to avoid it. If the puppy urinates on the towel, remove bedding until your Labradoodle no longer eliminates in the crate.

Introducing the crate to your puppy

In order that your Labradoodle puppy associate his/her kennel crate with comfort, security and enjoyment, please follow these guidelines:

1. Occasionally throughout the day, drop small pieces of kibble or dog biscuits in the crate. While investigating his new crate, your Labradoodle pup will discover edible treasures, thereby reinforcing his positive associations with the crate. You may also feed him in the crate to create the same effect. If the dog hesitates, it often works to feed him in front of the crate, then right inside the doorway and then, finally, in the back of the crate.
2. In the beginning, praise and pet your puppy when he enters. Do not try to push, pull or force him into the crate. At this early stage of introduction only inductive methods are suggested. Overnight exception: You may need to place your Labradoodle in his crate and shut the door upon retiring. (In most cases, the crate should be placed next to your bed overnight. If this is not possible, the crate can be placed in the kitchen, bathroom or living room.)
3. You may also play this enjoyable and educational game with your Labradoodle puppy or dog: Without alerting your puppy, drop a small dog biscuit into the crate. Then call your puppy and say to him, "Where's the biscuit? It's in your room." Using only a friendly, encouraging voice, direct your puppy toward his crate. When the puppy discovers the treat, give enthusiastic praise. The biscuit will automatically serve as a primary reward. Your pup should be free to leave its crate at all times during this game. Later on, your puppy's toy or ball can be substituted for the treat.
4. It is advisable first to crate your Labradoodle for short periods of time **while you are home with him**. In fact, crate training is best accomplished while you are in the room with your Labradoodle. Getting him used to your absence from the room in which he is crated is a good first step. This prevents an association being made with the crate and your leaving him/her alone.

Important reminders

Labradoodle puppies under 4 months of age have little bladder or sphincter control. Puppies under 3 months have even less. Very young puppies under 9 weeks should not be crated, as they need to eliminate very frequently (usually 8-12 times or more daily).

1. **Collars:** Always remove your puppy or dog's collar before confining in the crate. Even flat buckle collars can occasionally get struck on the bars or wire mesh of a crate. If you must leave a collar on the pup when you crate him (e.g.: for his identification tag), use a safety "break away" collar.
2. **Warm Weather:** Do not crate a Labradoodle puppy or dog when temperatures reach an uncomfortable level. Cold water should always be available to puppies, especially during warm weather. **[Never leave an unsupervised Labradoodle on a terrace, roof or inside a car during warm weather. Also, keep outdoor exercise periods brief until the hot weather subsides.]**
3. Be certain that your Labradoodle has fully eliminated shortly before being crated. Be sure that the crate you are using is not too large to discourage your puppy from eliminating in it. Rarely does a Labradoodle puppy or dog eliminate in the crate if it is properly sized and your dog is an appropriate age to be crated a given amount of time. If your Labradoodle continues to eliminate in the crate, the following may be the causes:
 - Your Labradoodle is too young to have much control.
 - Your Labradoodle has a poor or rich diet, or very large meals.
 - Your Labradoodle did not eliminate prior to being confined.
 - Your Labradoodle has worms.
 - Your Labradoodle has gaseous or loose stools.
 - Your Labradoodle drank large amounts of water prior to being crated.
 - Your Labradoodle has been forced to eliminate in small confined areas prior to crate training.
 - Your Labradoodle is suffering from a health condition or illness (i.e., bladder infection, prostate problem, etc.)
 - Your Labradoodle is experiencing severe separation anxiety when left alone.

Accidents in the crate

If your Labradoodle puppy messes in his crate while you are out, do not punish him upon your return. Simply wash out the crate using a pet odor neutralizer (such as Nature's Miracle, Nilodor, or Outright). **Do not** use ammonia-based products, as their odor resembles urine and may draw your Labradoodle back to urinate in the same spot again.

Labradoodle puppies purchased in pet stores, or puppies which were kept solely in small cages or other similar enclosures at a young age (between approximately 7 and 16 weeks of age), may be considerably harder to housebreak using the crate training method due to their having been forced to eliminate in their sleeping area during this formative stage of development.

This is the time when most puppies are learning to eliminate outside their sleeping area. Confining them with their waste products retards the housebreaking process, and this problem can continue throughout a dog's adult life.

Crating duration guidelines

9-10 Weeks	Approx. 30-60 minutes
11-14 Weeks	Approx. 1-3 hours
15-16 Weeks	Approx. 3-4 hours
17 + Weeks	Approx. 4+ (6 hours maximum)

Except for overnight, neither puppies nor dogs should be crated for more than 5 hours at a time. (6 hours maximum!)

The crate as a punishment

NEVER use the crate as a form of punishment or reprimand for your puppy or dog. This simply causes the dog to fear and resent the crate. If correctly introduced to his crate, your puppy should be happy to go into his crate at any time. You may however use the crate as a brief time-out for your puppy as a way of discouraging nipping or excessive rowdiness.

Children and the crate

Do not allow children to play in your Labradoodle's crate or to handle your dog while he/she is in the crate. The crate is your Labradoodle's private sanctuary. His/her rights to privacy should always be respected.

Barking in the crate

In most cases a Labradoodle puppy who cries incessantly in his crate has either been crated too soon (without taking the proper steps as outlined above) or is suffering from separation anxiety and is anxious about being left alone. Some Labradoodles may simply under exercised. Others may not have enough attention paid them. Try increasing the amount of exercise and play your dog receives daily.

When not to use a crate

Do not crate your puppy or dog if:

- Your Labradoodle is too young to have sufficient bladder or sphincter control.
- Your Labradoodle has diarrhea. Diarrhea can be caused by: worms, illness, intestinal upsets such as colitis, too much and/or the wrong kinds of food, quick changes in the dogs diet, or stress, fear or anxiety.
- Your Labradoodle is vomiting.
- You must leave him crated for more than the Crating Duration Guidelines suggest.
- Your Labradoodle has not eliminated shortly before being placed inside the crate.
(See Housetraining Guidelines for exceptions.)
- The temperature is excessively high.
- Your Labradoodle has not had sufficient exercise, companionship and socialization.

Alternative methods of confining your Labradoodle puppy

There are alternative methods to crating very young Labradoodle puppies, and puppies who must be left alone in the house for lengths of time exceeding the recommended maximum duration of confinement.

Try the following:

Use a small to medium-sized room space such as a kitchen, large bathroom or hallway with non- porous floor. Set up the crate on one end, the food and

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water a few feet away, and some newspaper (approx. 2'x3' to 3'x3') using a 3 to 4 layer thickness, several feet away. Confine your puppy to this room or area using a 3 ft. high, safety-approved child's gate rather than shutting off the opening by a solid door. Your pup will feel less isolated if it can see out beyond its immediate place of confinement. Puppy proof the area by removing any dangerous objects or substances.



Basic Labradoodle Obedience Training

Good Labradoodle puppy training is the key to a well behaved dog. Good dog behavior makes your Labradoodle a pleasure to own and a credit to you as its owner – this is why it is important to teach your dog to respond to simple commands.

No training routine should be a chore; it should be fun for both of you and will bring many benefits for years to come. It is extremely satisfying owning a well behaved dog, but the early steps of dog training require consistency, understanding and unlimited patience to make training puppies easy!

10 top Tips to Ensure Labradoodle Training Success

1. Make training fun for both of you. If you and your dog are enjoying yourselves, you're more likely to succeed.
2. Before you start your training session for the day, have your goals in mind.
3. Be patient and progress gradually
4. Don't make the sessions too long, avoid boredom (for both of you!)
5. Reward good behavior with praise and treats
6. Never shout at or punish your Labradoodle
7. Teach one thing at a time
8. Always use the same command words for the same actions – and make sure the rest of your family does too
9. Keep training sessions short. 3 short sessions of 5-10 minutes each will teach your dog more than 1 30-minute session.
10. Timing is everything in dog training. Video yourself or have a friend watch you to make sure that you reward your dog as he does the

behavior you ask for- not afterwards! Studies have shown that one of the biggest differences between pro trainers and amateurs is that the pros give their rewards in a timely manner while the amateurs are late.

Most Labradoodles are born with an inherent desire to please and this natural trait is maximized with enthusiastic training combined with a reward system. Always reward good dog behavior – this means every single time he is obedient and responds to your commands. Rewards based dog training is without doubt the most effective.

Labradoodle puppies, just like babies, learn from trial and error – so if your dog burns his nose on the fire, it is extremely unlikely that he would ever do it a second time! If he barks for attention and everyone ignores him, he will soon give up. However, it is easy for your dog obedience training to go wrong if he does something wrong and is rewarded, like raiding the bin and finding food, as then he is likely to repeat it.

Repeat rewarding good dog behavior and stopping doing the things that are unpleasant or unrewarding is the basis of all learning experience. In order to train your dog / puppy you simply need to exploit this process and manipulate situations so that he learns what you want him to do.

All Labradoodle puppies (and humans!) learn more quickly and retain more of what they have learned, if they do not feel under stress. This means that puppy training using rewards is far more effective and sustainable than teaching using punishment. It is important to create a feeling of trust between you and your dog / puppy whilst using any puppy training techniques – this allows your dog to find new ways of earning rewards, without the fear of being wrong.

Rewards when puppy training can be anything that your dog / puppy wants – the most obvious is food, however pleasant social contact, verbal praise (usually accompanied by that high pitched, excited, squeaky voice that we do so naturally!) and physical praise, strokes on the back and/or chest also work really well - but not pats on the head, who would enjoy that!

The quickest and easiest way to train a happy working dog is with food. You can use the food to lure your dog into position and to make the behavior really rewarding for your dog. Don't worry- you'll fade the use of food out quickly!

Games with toys are good puppy training rewards – but just like humans, different dogs are motivated by different things. You will need to find out what motivates your dog and what is the most successful puppy training reward

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and therefore will work best.

Sometimes we expect too much from our dogs too soon. Labradoodles are really bad about generalizing. Just because they know "sit" in the living room, this does not mean that they know what "sit" means in the park. You'll have to practice each new command in a variety of places before your dog knows it everywhere. But remember, the more commands you teach your dog, the more quickly he'll generalize new ones!

The secret is to make your Labradoodle training positive and fun.



Training Your Labradoodle to Sit

Step 1

Get a good supply of small food treats. Take them and your Labradoodle into a quiet room.

Step 2

Hold a treat just over and above your Labradoodle's nose. Slowly draw it straight up so that your dog's nose follows the food. He'll sit when you do so, to keep the food in sight. Don't give any command at this stage!

Step 3

As your dog is sitting (be quick!) praise your dog and give him the treat! Repeat until your dog is sitting quickly when he sees the food move. Take a break!

Step 4

Get ready with your dog and food as for the first session. Take a piece of food, say "sit", and then lure your dog into position. Praise and treat. Repeat until your Labradoodle is starting to sit as you say the word "sit". Take a break!

Step 5

Now you start to fade the food. Get ready as you did for the last session. Say "sit". When your Labradoodle sits, praise and pet your dog! Repeat the "sit", but this time give your dog a treat for sitting. Repeat, giving your dog a treat at random times. Remember the "jackpot principle" referred to in my first article!

Step 6

Now you can start to generalize. Ask your Labradoodle to sit in different locations. Depending on your dog, you may need to lure a few sits with food first in the first few new locations. Randomly treat the sits. Keep practicing in new locations until your dog reliably sits on the first command no matter where you are.

Congratulations- you have trained your Labradoodle to sit!



How to Train Your Labradoodle to Stay

Step 1

Get a supply of small, tasty treats. Go into a quiet room. Have your Labradoodle sit. Hold a treat in your hand, and let your dog know you have it. As your dog reaches for it, close your hand. The instant your dog pulls his head even a bit away, praise and let him have the treat. Timing is important here! Repeat until your dog does not go for the treat, but instead instantly pulls back.

Step 2

Repeat Step 1, but wait for a second or two after your Labradoodle pulls back before giving the treat and praise. Make sure you treat/praise while your dog is sitting! If he gets up, walk a couple of steps away and try again. Repeat until your dog is sitting for 5 seconds. Stay right by your dog while doing this! The commonest reason that people have trouble teaching stay is that they try to leave their dogs too quickly. If your Labradoodle won't stay when you are next to him, he certainly won't stay when you walk away! Making sure your dog is always successful in this step before you move on will make later learning much more successful.

Step 3

Continue step 2, but now tell your dog "stay" as you show the treat, and give a release word like "OK" when you give your Labradoodle the treat. Work until your dog will sit with you right in front of him for 30 seconds. If your dog gets up, quietly say something like "uh-uh" and try again. You want your dog to learn that "uh-uh" means that he won't get a reward.

After your dog makes a mistake, scale back your criterion a bit. For example, if he got up after 15 seconds, go back to sitting for 10 seconds for the next few tries, then try 15 again. If your dog makes more than 1 or 2 mistakes in a row, you are hurrying too fast. Move back to what your dog can do successfully and build from there.

Step 4

Repeat step 3, but begin to move away from your dog just a little bit- for example, take 1 step backward then return. Then take a step to one side, then the other. Repeat until you can walk in a tiny circle around your dog. Again, if your dog gets up, say "uh-uh" and try again. Remember not to hurry.

Step 5

Repeat step 4, but start walking up to 5 steps away from your Labradoodle. Continue until your dog will stay for 30 seconds while you walk no more than 5 steps away.

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Step 6

Start doing stays in areas with some distraction and in new areas. When first practicing in a new area, go back to very short stays right in front of you, and only do more when your dog is always successful. Repeat until your dog will stay in a new area for 30 seconds with you 5 steps away.

Step 7

Very slowly lengthen the distance you go when you walk away to 30 feet, and the time to 1 minute. Remember not to hurry!

Step 8

You can train a down-stay in the same way, starting at step 1. It should go much faster, now that your dog knows something about staying.

Congratulations- you have a Labradoodle who can stay!



Teach Your Labradoodle the Down Command

Step 1

Get a good supply of small food treats. Take them and your dog into a quiet room.

Step 2

Hold a treat just in front of your Labradoodle's nose. Slowly draw it down and between your dog's front legs, towards the ground. He'll lay down as he follows the food. Don't give any command at this stage! If your dog has a hard time with this, hold the treat under a chair or table where he'll have to lay down to get at it.

Step 3

As your dog is laying down (be quick!) praise him and give him the treat! Repeat until your dog is laying down quickly when he sees the food move. Take a break!

Step 4

Get ready with your dog and food as for the first session. Take a piece of food, say "down", and then lure your dog into position. It helps if you point to the ground, using a motion similar to the way you used the food lure (you can use this later as a signal to your dog.). Praise and treat. Repeat until your dog is starting to lay down as you say the word "down". Take a break!

Step 5

Now you start to fade the food. Get ready as you did for the last session. Say "down". When your dog lays down, praise and pet your dog! Repeat the "down", but this time give your dog a treat for laying down. Repeat, giving your dog a treat at random times. Remember the "jackpot principle" referred to in my first article!

Step 6

Now you can start to generalize. Ask your Labradoodle to lay down in different locations. Depending on your dog, you may need to lure a few downs with food first in the first few new locations. Randomly treat the downs. Keep practicing in new locations until your dog reliably lays down on the first command no matter where you are.

Congratulations- you have trained your Labradoodle to lay down!



How to Train Your Labradoodle to Come

The "come" command is one that is routinely disobeyed by many Labradoodles- and often for good reason!

To start with, here are a few rules for teaching "come":

- Never call your Labradoodle to you for anything he may perceive as negative- scolding, baths, nail clipping, pill-giving, etc. If you need to give your dog a bath or pill, go get your dog! "Come" should always be a command your dog is happy to hear.
- Never call your Labradoodle when you can't reinforce the command or haven't trained your dog to respond to the command. You are just teaching your dog to ignore you.
- If your Labradoodle already routinely ignores the word "come", pick a new command word like "here" or "front" to use while training your dog.

Step 1

Get a good supply of small food treats. Take them and your dog into a quiet room; one where you have enough room to take several steps backwards and where there is nothing of great interest to your dog.

Step 2

When your dog is a few steps away from you, and not looking at you, say "Rover, come!" in a happy, high-pitched voice. As he turns to you, back up quickly so he has to run to catch you (the chase instinct is a powerful motivator for most dogs!). As he reaches you, lure him into a sit and give him treats and praise! Repeat until he is running up to you at the sound of your call. Take a break!

Step 3

Repeat the step above. Now, however, before you give your Labradoodle his treat, take ahold of his collar as he sits. Feed him while you hold his collar. As you release the collar, say "Go play!". This step ensures that you can control your dog when he gets to you. Without this training, lots of dogs will just run up to you and run circles around you when you call them! Repeat until he is sitting in front of you and you can take his collar every time you call him.

Step 4

Now move to the back yard (or a small, safe, boring fenced area if you do not have a yard). Repeat Step 2 above. If your dog does not come as soon as you call him, turn and run! He'll run after you to catch up.

It's best to train this without a leash (after all, most of the times you want your dog to come to you, he'll be off-leash), but if your dog isn't responding, put him on a leash. Do not let the leash get tight, however, unless you have to run backwards, and do not jerk the leash or yell at your dog. Even if you need to use the leash, make sure to praise and pet your dog when he gets to you! Save the treats for the times he responds right away. After a few sessions with the leash on, let it drag, picking it up only if your dog does not respond to the command. Then remove it.

Repeat until your dog is turning and running to you reliably every time you call. Don't forget to take hold of his collar and release him with "go play!".

Step 5

For this step, you'll need a "long line" You can use a 50' piece of clothesline or a special long nylon leash. Practice in your back yard or fenced area. Let your Labradoodle drag the line; do not pick it up. Let your dog wander away. If he starts to go too far, step on the line (but try to call him before he goes too far!).

When he is about 10' away, call him. If he responds right away, treats and praise! If he does not, run backwards as in step 4 above. Remember to praise and pet as he comes to you. If he does not come even when you run back, take ahold of the line and give it a gentle tug. Praise and pet when he comes to you.

Save the treats for the times he responds right away. Repeat until he is running up to you at the sound of your call, every time. Don't forget to take hold of his collar and release him with "go play!". Take a break!

Step 6

Repeat step 5 above, but gradually let your dog go a little further before you call him. When he comes every time from 50', go to step 7.

Step 7

Repeat Step 6 in many different areas until your Labradoodle is absolutely reliable. Gradually introduce distractions such as people nearby, other dogs, food, etc. If your dog is distracted, shorten the leash and work until he comes even with the distraction. When your dog comes every time, even with distractions, go to step 8.

Step 8

In a safe, fenced-in area, remove the leash. Let your Labradoodle get some distance away. Call him. If he comes right away (he should!), have a party!

If not, walk him down. Do not yell or get mad, but calmly walk up to your dog and take him by the collar (no matter how long it takes you to catch him!). Quickly walk him back to where you first called, giving the collar short shakes and saying something like "I said "come"!". At the point where you called him, release him and then call again. He should come straight to you- most dogs need only one or two collar shakes to know you mean business. Repeat until he comes every time.

Congratulations- you have taught your Labradoodle to come!



How to Train Your Labradoodle to Walk Nicely

This method relies on the fact that dogs out for a walk like to go somewhere. It is very effective.

Step 1

Put your Labradoodle on a leash, preferably a 4-foot one. From now on, you will tolerate no pulling. Every time your dog pulls, immediately stop. Plant your feet and do not move. As long as your dog pulls, stay stationary. But, the minute your dog lets up the tension on the leash, praise and continue walking! Don't expect to get very far the first walk. You may not even get out the door! When your dog is properly close to you, give praise and an occasional treat- and the opportunity to keep walking!

Step 2

Most Labradoodles learn very quickly that they don't get to go anywhere if they pull. If you have a really recalcitrant dog, instead of just stopping, every time your dog pulls, quickly turn and walk in the opposite direction. Be prepared to get a bit dizzy! As soon as this method starts having results, switch back to just stopping.

Step 3

If you have a particularly strong Labradoodle, consider using a head halter. These work like the bridle on a horse- where the head goes, the body must follow. They are not muzzles. A couple popular brands are Halti and Gentle Leader. It is impossible for a dog to pull while wearing a head halter.



How to Teach Your Labradoodle to Fetch

Teaching your Labradoodle to fetch is one of the easiest commands, simply because it his nature to carry things in his mouth.

The best items to use when trying to teach your Labradoodle to fetch or retrieve items back to you, is with his favorite toys.

It is a good idea to first teach your Labradoodle to stay before you teach him fetching, that way you can throw or hide his toy before allowing him to find, retrieve and bring the toy back to you.

Step 1

Begin by commanding your dog to sit, and place his toy a few steps away from where he is positioned, so that he can clearly see it. Then ask him to find it by using the command “Find” “toy” or the name of the toy. As soon as he goes to the toy, even if he doesn’t touch it, praise him instantly and give him a treat. Continue repeating this maneuver, praising him each time, and try to encourage him to pick up the toy in his mouth. Once he picks up the toy, praise him and give him a treat, and then give him back the toy and play with him for a while.

Step 2

As soon as your Labradoodle has learned how to retrieve the toy, you will then need to begin working on getting him to bring the toy to you. The first time he comes running to you with the toy, praise him right away and give him a treat. After the first time, only praise him when he puts the toy in your hand. You can help him accomplish this by trading the toy for a treat.

Step 3

Once your dog is able to easily retrieve and give you the toy, you can then begin to proceed with more advanced retrieving exercises, such as randomly hiding toys or other objects somewhere in the house or outside, and give him the command to “find” (or whatever you have been using). His task is to bring you the object or toy that is hidden which contains human scent. You will find that teaching your Labradoodle to retrieve is not only a fun game he will enjoy, but it can be quite useful if you ever lose an item.

The more practice your dog has at it, the better he will get. Remember to always praise him.

Congratulations- you have taught your Labradoodle to fetch!



How To Teach Your Labradoodle To Swim

By nature, Labradoodles are known as paddlers rather than swimmers. Just like people, they usually need to be introduced to the water before they jump in, as a bad water experience could lead to them having a fear of water, making it nearly impossible for you to ever encourage your Labradoodle to swim.

The best time to teach your Labradoodle to swim is when he is still a puppy, but this doesn't mean you can't teach an older dog to swim. It only implies that the process for an adult Labradoodle may be more of a challenge, but the training process is identical.

Step 1

Choose a warm day and take your Labradoodle to a calm pond or lake, and bring someone along with you, as you will need them to help you with the task. You will need to wade into the water with you puppy, up to your knees, so make sure you are wearing, shorts, swimwear, or clothing you don't mind getting wet. The other person should be waiting on shore.

Hold your puppy by placing one hand under his belly, and use the other to gently hold the base of his tail, and lower him into the water without letting him go.

Your Labradoodle should instinctively begin to paddle with his paws, encourage him with words of praise, but don't give him any toys or treats as this will only distract him from the task at hand - you will find that words will go a long way.

Step 2

As soon as your Labradoodle begins a stronger paddle, let go of his belly, but continue to hold on to the base of his tail to support his back end and make it level with the front of his body, and continue to give him praise.

It is very important that you keep your Labradoodle's front and back end level during the first few swimming lessons until he can do the maneuver himself, as swimming vertically will be very difficult for your dog.

Step 3

As soon as you feel that your dog will be able to stay afloat on his own, have the other person begin to attract the dog's attention by acting excited and vigorously calling him to come.

Labradoodle Savvy

As soon as your Labradoodle begins to paddle even stronger, release your hold on him, and let him make his way towards the other person on shore. Make sure you follow after him closely, in case you need to scoop him out of the water if he stops swimming.

If your dog is successful, and reaches the shore, praise him immensely, and reward him.

Each time you repeat the lesson, increase the distance from the shore.

If however, your dog is having a difficult time making it to the shore, decrease the distance, and slowly begin to increase only when he makes progress.

With continuous lessons, before long, you will have taught your Labradoodle how to swim confidently - Congratulations!



Labradoodles And Obedience Class

Discipline is one of the most important aspects of owning a Labradoodle.

Puppy school is not an option, it is a necessity to train owners, including children in the family, how to manage your Labradoodle and nurture it into becoming a well-adjusted member of the family.

Puppy training is a valuable long-term investment. It serves many purposes: It teaches your puppy specific commands and also teaches him how to learn; it teaches you how to teach; it teaches your puppy to be comfortable with other people and other dogs. All in all, it's one of the best investments you can make in your puppy's future behavior.

To choose a good trainer or training facility, check with your veterinarian and friends for recommendations and then visit. Know the trainer or facility before you lay down any cash. Wait until your Labradoodle is at least 6 months old before putting him through any serious work.

Trainers with extensive experience and knowledge can deal with just about any behavior problems your pup might come up with.

Choose a trainer who is purposeful and patient. The well-trained Labradoodle is a sight to behold going through his paces in the class. Their innate intelligence makes many Labradoodles great successes in the obedience ring.

Of more importance is for you as owner to continue to practice the obedience lessons with your Labradoodle.

They will best remember the lessons when you incorporate them into your everyday routines with your Labradoodle.

For example you can tell your pup to "heel" while he follows you around the house, and to "sit" and "stay" while you prepare his dinner. As your wake up greeting in the morning he can do a "roll over". Tell him to "go find the ball" while you get dressed and "go get the leash" before you go for walks together.

Labradoodle school checklist

- You're the pack leader, so start early. If your Labradoodle puppy needs extra work, consult a trainer. Time invested in training your pup will pay off in companionship for the rest of your Labradoodle's life.
- Whether choosing a private individual or a franchise, don't gauge quality by price. A competent, experienced trainer may be very reasonable in price.
- Trust your initial impression of the trainer. It probably is valid.
- Check your puppy's tail; it should be wagging. Is your Labradoodle comfortable? Does he like the trainer?
- Check out the training course and methodology. What and how do they teach? Do they cover everything you want your Labradoodle to learn?
- Check experience and credentials. Is this a summer job for someone or a lifetime passion?
- Is the trainer patient? Different Labradoodle puppies learn at different rates. Some are shy while others are bold. They may need different methods to succeed.
- Observe a class. Both people and dogs should be relaxed and having a good time - smiles and wagging tails all round.



Reprimanding Your Labradoodle

Talk to Labradoodles like you would to children when they do something wrong.

Tell them “no” and show them immediately what the correct behavior should be and reward them for doing it right. After a few times they'll know how to do it right.

For example, tell him “NO” when you catch him chewing the shoes. Then immediately give him his own toys to chew and cheer him on to chew on the toys. Praise him for doing so.

Use sparingly those reprimanding words like “No,” “Stop that,” “get off” and “bad dog!” Instead use more praises to reward good behavior in your Labradoodles and only then the reprimands will take on stronger meaning.

A correct reprimand is short, sharp and immediate.

Only reprimand when you catch your Labradoodle doing something wrong, and punish only with your voice.

Hitting, kicking, slapping or spanking your Labradoodle would create more problems and usually makes existing problems worse. You may just end up with a barking and chewing dog, one that is leery, hand-shy, fearful or aggressive. Furthermore, physically reprimanding your dog can cause injury. Therefore, you should *never* hit your dog.



Repetition And Rewarding Your Labradoodle

Repetitions in doing the right things and rewarding your Labradoodle every single time are crucial in training.

The more often he is rewarded, the better and quicker he will learn. Create situations where your Labradoodle can get plenty of practice at doing the right things.

Be sure to praise when he does a good job.

Labradoodle Savvy

This is simple but not always easy to do. Bad behaviors like biting, constant yelping and barking and tearing the house apart get our immediate notice. What we easily forget to acknowledge are the good parts – when the Labradoodle is lying down quietly, chewing on his own toys, leaving the carpet unsoiled.

Praise and reward are the most important part of maintaining your Labradoodle's good behavior and preventing him from getting into trouble.



Unwanted Labradoodle Behavior And How To Cure It

Training your Labradoodle is relatively straightforward. Labradoodles are intelligent and helped by their instincts begin to learn behavior patterns which are normal for them or make their lives easier but which are not acceptable to humans.

In this section you will find out about the most common of these behaviors which, as a human, you see as problems but your Labradoodle sees as fun, normal or making his life easier.

There are 4 key things to remember when curing unwanted behavior:

1. Remember your Labradoodle is a dog, so don't expect him to behave like a human
2. Be consistent
3. Be consistent
4. Be consistent

Lack of consistency is the biggest source of failure in adapting a Labradoodles behavior.

For example: If you spend time working to stop him begging but the children drop food on the floor he will continue to beg. As he will if Grandma sneaks a bit under the table when no one is looking.

So remember BE CONSITENT!



Excessive Barking

Labradoodles bark to communicate. The key to managing this behavior lies in determining the cause, then offering a quieter alternative.

Why Labradoodles bark

It's a fact of life that most dogs bark. Some breeds bark more than others. Some barking is necessary and useful ("There is someone at the door.") and other barking is just plain annoying. When your Labradoodle barks, he or she may be communicating:

- I need exercise
- I'm bored
- I need to go outside.
- I hear something
- I'm home alone
- Pay attention to me right now!

How to solve the problem

If you think your Labradoodle needs something like exercise or water in his bowl, call him to you. Have him sit, praise him and only then do what needs doing; otherwise you'll be rewarding barking, which can lead to more barking. If your Labradoodle dog or puppy's needs are met and he's just barking to bark, try this:

- Start by saying "quiet" in a calm but firm tone.
- If he stops barking, praise him and give him a treat, preferably a kibble of his food. Good dog!
- If he does not stop barking (and many Labradoodles won't at first), clip his leash on and call him to you.
- Back away from whatever he is barking at and keep calling until he focuses on you. Good dog! Now praise and offer a food reward.

You can also try a mild aversive like a stream of water from a plant mister. If your Labradoodle is barking at the window, say 'quiet,' spray your dog (who should stop in surprise), call him to you and praise him.

Labradoodle Savvy

After he looks at you and gets rewarded, have him sit or down (calmly help him obey if you need to) then offer more praise! A Labradoodle who learns to stop barking, come to you and lie down is a pretty easy dog to live with and that's a fine goal to work toward.

Leave a radio on for your Labradoodle if he barks when left alone. This is good company for him and helps drown out outside noises.

Do's and don'ts

- Do make sure your dog is getting plenty of exercise and training everyday. A bored dog is more likely to bark.
- Don't leave your dog alone in the backyard for long periods; that can cause many dogs to bark.

Please remember — any action to stop barking must be made while your Labradoodle is barking. After-the-fact attempts at correction will only confuse your dog. Use a calm, firm voice. Avoid yelling, which can be stressful and upsetting to your dog.



Begging

Dogs beg for food, attention, or other things they want because someone has taught them begging works. We teach dogs to beg by giving them what they want when they do so. The best solution is never to start rewarding begging in the first place, but if it's too late for that, there are ways to correct this behavior.

Why Labradoodle dogs beg

Labradoodles beg because it works. The dog has learned that whenever it whines, barks, or begs in any way, the human hands out food or attention. You are training your dog to beg every time you:

- Slip a piece of food under the table in response to begging.
- Get up at night to check on a whining dog.
- Do what the dog wants in response to its pleading eyes or insistent whining.

Correcting begging behavior

Dogs seldom repeat behavior that doesn't pay off; so if begging stops paying off, it will stop -- eventually.

Never feed your Labradoodle from the table. In addition to avoiding that perpetual beg, it also supports your position as the leader – for dogs, leaders control the food. If your Labradoodle is already begging, consider crating him elsewhere when you eat.

Feed your Labradoodle puppy away from where you eat so there is no confusion.

When your Labradoodle whines for any reason other than to go outside, just ignore him. If you cannot ignore him, give him other commands like 'come,' 'sit' or 'down' and praise and reward him for those. This will give him something positive to do and reminds him you're the leader in a non-confrontational way.

Do's and don'ts

The most important thing is consistency. If you surrender to your frustration after your Labradoodle has spent half an hour begging, you've simply taught him to beg for at least half an hour. Instead, train your dog to do what you want. Reward your dog when quiet and well behaved and eventually he will be quieter and better behaved.



Boredom

Although Labradoodle dogs are creatures of habit, they still crave exercise – both physical and mental. If you don't provide it for them, they can get bored and start to entertain themselves – often by doing things you don't like.

When Labradoodle dogs are bored

Bored Labradoodles may:

- Dig
- Chew

Labradoodle Savvy

- Run away
- Bark or otherwise try to get your attention
- Harass the cat, annoy you, “lose” the ball under the couch repeatedly, lick/chew themselves, etc.

What to do about it

If you suspect your Labradoodle may be suffering from boredom, whether or not problem behaviors are present, you may want to:

Make a list of simple “tricks” to teach your dog, and try to teach a new trick every few weeks.

Keep a well-stocked box of dog toys (out of view) to provide diversion when it is needed. Rotate toys every few days, keeping 3-4 out at all times.

Introduce food-dispensing toys to your Labradoodle.

Make sure your Labradoodle gets plenty of exercise. Simply hanging around in the back yard may not be enough. Do things with your dog such as take long walks or play fetch.

Interact with your Labradoodle and offer praise and a kibble of food for good behavior. See how many good behaviors you can reward in a day.

When possible, take your Labradoodle along when visiting friends or running errands.

Remember...

Your Labradoodle's lifestyle influences his behavior. Regular walks or play periods with your dog and praise for tricks will make your dog's life fun and stimulating. A happy Labradoodle is less likely to develop annoying behavior problems.



Chewing

Chewing is normal for Labradoodles, but it can cause problems when your shoes, books or furniture are the targets. Correcting problem chewing is often simply a matter of preventing unwanted chewing while encouraging your Labradoodle to chew appropriate dog toys. If chewing only happens when left alone, try confinement (see Crate Training). It may also be a sign of Separation Anxiety or Boredom.

Why Labradoodle dogs chew

Chewing is usually a healthy, normal thing to do when it isn't destructive.

Labradoodles chew for many reasons:

- To release pent-up energy.
- Stress.
- Teething, which generally occurs between three and six months of age.
- Because the simply finds chewing enjoyable.

Keep in mind that some behavior that looks like chewing or biting is actually exploratory 'mouthing.' Labradoodles learn about an object's feel and texture with their mouths in the way people learn those things by feeling with their hands.

Correcting inappropriate chewing

Buy appropriate chew toys. Then, when you see your Labradoodle chewing something inappropriate:

- Say "no" or "eh" in a low voice. (It's a sound similar to a mother's growl, which your puppy will take as a sign of disapproval)
- If your Labradoodle stops to look at you, praise and give your puppy a preferred chew toy. Do not use old shoes, socks or gloves, as that will actually train your dog to chew your things.
- Praise your dog whenever you see him chewing a dog toy. This teaches your Labradoodle that it is not chewing that is wrong – just chewing the wrong things.

Labradoodle Savvy

- Make sure Labradoodle puppies have chew toys available at all times, especially when teething.
- When possible, put items your Labradoodle likes to chew away or out of reach. If you can't, keep your dog out of the area with gates or by closing doors.
- When you aren't home, confine your Labradoodle in a safe area or crate your dog.
- Increase his exercise and his training.

Do's and don'ts

- Do provide lots of good, solid dog toys for chewing.
- Do prevent problems by supervising your dog closely and exercising him often.
- Do stay calm. If you catch your Labradoodle chewing something other than a dog toy do as suggested above.
- Don't blame the Labradoodle for being a dog – give him toys to chew, reward him for chewing those, and prevent access to other items.



Digging

Digging can be annoying. In some cases it can be 'hardwired' into a Labradoodle's personality. Other times it's a learned behavior or it can also be a sign that your dog needs something. Watch when and where your Labradoodle digs—that will give you clues to why your dog is digging and how to manage, prevent, or control it.

Why Labradoodle dogs dig

- Dogs dig for many reasons:
- In summer, lying in a cool hole brings relief from the heat.

- Burying treasure, such as a bone.
- Investigating an interesting smell – in fact, Labradoodles are ‘hardwired’ to dig up moles and other rodents
- Releasing pent-up energy or alleviating boredom.

How to deal with digging Labradoodles

If you’d like to stop your Labradoodle from digging, there are two ways to approach it: Redirect the behavior to a more desirable place or try to stop it entirely. You may want to try a combination of these ideas:

In warm weather, make sure your Labradoodle has a cool, shady spot to rest and plenty of water – better yet, bring your dog indoors.

To discourage future digs, bury a little of your Labradoodle’s waste just below the surface when you fill in the hole. If your dog digs in the same spot, he will find the waste. This often is enough to discourage digging.

If you catch your Labradoodle in the act of inappropriate digging, a sharp ‘Leave It!’ followed by a command such as ‘Come’ and praise for compliance will help distract and refocus your dog.

Make sure your Labradoodle gets plenty of exercise and time with you. Being alone in the backyard does not qualify as exercise. Walks, games of fetch, and romps with other dogs will tire your dog out.

Do not leave your Labradoodle outside unattended for long periods - that invites digging. If he must be left outside for a time, be sure to provide plenty of toys.

To redirect the behavior, you can build a sandbox for your dog. Bury toys just under the surface and reward your dog when he digs in the right area and finds his treasure.

Do’s and don’ts

- Do give your Labradoodle plenty of exercise every day.
- Do keep him with you as much as possible.

- Do use commands to direct your dog to behaviors you want then reward him.
- Don't punish your Labradoodle when you find holes. Your dog won't associate the punishment with the crime.



Disgusting Habits

Dogs do a number of things that people find disgusting – but for the most part, these things are more annoying to humans than they are bad for dogs.

Disgusting things Labradoodle dogs do

- Labradoodles may eat feces – their own or another animal's – out of hunger, boredom, curiosity, or, most appalling to us, they appear to just plain like it.
- Labradoodles lick their crotches during grooming and sniff each other's crotches during normal greeting.
- Labradoodles like rolling in smelly things – dead fish, garbage, anything they can find.

What you can do

These habits, while upsetting to humans, aren't typically dangerous to dogs. Still, in the interest of having a well-mannered Labradoodle that is welcome in the house, you can try to control these behaviors or at least learn how to deal with them.

Try to keep your Labradoodle healthy and entertained to alleviate hunger and boredom.

Pick up waste that is left in the yard every time you take your Labradoodle outdoors.

Coat feces with a bitter flavor to create a negative memory for your dog — your Labradoodle will be more likely to avoid it in the future. (Be sure to provide plenty of fresh, clean drinking water so your dog can get some quick relief.)

Licking is part of a normal grooming routine, but excessive licking could indicate an infection or irritation. If you're not sure, ask your veterinarian.

A well-trained Labradoodle who obeys your command to 'come' can be steered clear of tempting targets to roll in.

If your Labradoodle does get smelly, simply bathe him and try to prevent him from rolling in the future by keeping him on a lead, removing the attractive item, and working hard on his 'leave it' and 'come' commands.

Do's and don'ts

- Do pick up after your dog.
- Don't leave him off-leash in an area where there are temptations.
- Do work daily on his basic training so he'll respond reliably.
- Don't punish your Labradoodle for being a dog – he won't understand.



Fearfulness

The world can be a scary place to a Labradoodle dog, but it needn't be. Here are some common fears and things you can do – and things you shouldn't do.

What to do

Act the way you want your Labradoodle to act. So if you want him to be happy and calm, act happy and calm. No matter what the source of the fear, do NOT try to comfort your dog through snuggling, petting, or saying it's OK. It may seem like the most natural thing in the world, but your tone of voice and body language are actually telling your Labradoodle that there is something to fear. Instead, find fun distractions, like fetch or other games. Create positive experiences and reasons for your dog to feel good. Some pointers about common fears:

Fear of storms

The Cause: Most often, it's the strange sounds that accompany storms. Howling wind, lashing rain, booming thunder (made worse by the bright flashes of lightning), all these are much louder and scarier to dogs.

The Solution: A small, secure "den" like a crate can be comforting. Try turning on a radio or TV; the noise may take the shock out of the boom of thunder. Or you can try playing with your Labradoodle or try a training session – it'll distract your dog and give you plenty of chances to reward your dog, creating a positive experience. If this doesn't calm your dog, please speak to your veterinarian.

Fear of dogs

The Cause: Your Labradoodle may see other dogs as a threat.

The Solution: The best solution is experience. Bring your Labradoodle into contact with other friendly, dog-savvy dogs early and often; a training class is a great way to do this, since it's neutral territory and the dogs are under control. Trips to the dog park should be done with caution, as often there are adolescent, excitable dogs there. Some Labradoodles will thrive. Others will be overwhelmed and frightened. Watch your dog and see if he is having fun or is scared. Meeting plenty of friendly dogs should also help make your pet more comfortable.

Fear of people

The Cause: Your Labradoodle may see people as threats. This may be because your dog has not had enough socialization with enough different people, had frightening experiences with some people or, possibly, has a genetic predisposition to shyness.

The Solution: Experience will help. Always allow your Labradoodle to approach the person, do not allow the person to reach for your frightened dog. Do not drag your dog up to anyone - ever. Instead, give your dog treats – preferably a kibble of dog food, – when new people are around. As he gets braver, let people toss your dog a piece of food so that meeting new people becomes a good experience. Never, ever, attempt to force a frightened Labradoodle to take a treat from or meet a new person. By going slowly, allowing your Labradoodle to set the pace and using plenty of food rewards, your dog should learn to enjoy the company of people. If you're not seeing progress, have any concerns, have an aggressive dog or see growling, lunging, or cowering/hiding, please seek the guidance of a qualified dog trainer or behavior professional.

Fear of veterinarians

The Cause: First, establish that the fear IS of the veterinarian, and not people in general. If you do see behaviors at the veterinarian's office that you don't see otherwise, it could be sensory overload at the smell of so many other animals, or perhaps your Labradoodle has bad associations due to shots or other treatment.

The Solution: Try to make the experience good in general. Bring a favorite toy for entertainment and include a trip to the park or other positive experiences. Bring food kibbles and ask your veterinarian and the staff to give pieces to your Labradoodle before, during and after the visit is complete so your dog has a positive association.

Remember:

You set the tone. If you're nervous and worried, your Labradoodle will be, too. Making sure your dog is used to other animals (for example, by attending a dog training class) can help too.



Outside Marking

When your Labradoodle stops for a quick 'potty break' at every tree, bush and streetlight, what you're seeing is marking behavior. Depending on where you live and your dog, this may be behavior you want to stop.

Why Labradoodle dogs mark

Labradoodles "mark" to establish territory. Male Labradoodles lift their legs to mark, usually selecting upright 'targets.' Each dog has a unique smell that the other dogs' sensitive noses can identify. So these marks act as a personal calling card, telling other dogs he has spoken for this territory.

Why correct marking behavior?

There are two good reasons to put a stop to marking:

1. Labradoodles who mark frequently often have an attitude problem. Getting control of the marking often helps you get control over other problems as well.

2. If you live in an area with a lot of dogs, marking can lead to conflict. When dogs who have claimed the same area meet on the street, each dog can try to drive off the "intruder."

How to correct marking

In the best of all worlds, don't let your Labradoodle start. But if you have, the sooner you retrain your dog, the easier it will be.

First, neuter your male Labradoodle. Doing so early usually prevents problem leg lifting and, done at any age, will help to minimize this behavior.

Encourage your Labradoodle to eliminate in one spot in your yard before you start your walk. Do this by walking back and forth in that area. When he urinates, praise him then go for a larger stroll. This rewards quick emptying with exploration.

If your dog tries to mark during your walk, keep walking while saying, "Let's go, Heel!" in a happy tone of voice. If you keep moving and praise him for coming with you, you can prevent persistent lifting entirely.

If your Labradoodle is lifting his leg in the house, please seek the assistance of a qualified dog trainer or behaviorist.



Separation Anxiety

Separation anxiety is defined as your Labradoodle being greatly distressed whenever you leave, every time you leave. Scratching at the door, chewing things up, housetraining mistakes, barking hysterically and generally being extremely upset are a few of the signs. Most Labradoodles want to be with their humans as much as possible. Labradoodles that haven't been taught how to stay alone calmly may exhibit unwanted behaviors. Gradually adjusting dogs to being alone is the best approach.

Most puppies and some dogs experience a level of anxiety when left alone, even for very short periods of time. Most puppies learn that when they are left alone, nothing really bad happens to them, they are still alive, and their "people" come back. They learn how to entertain themselves while alone and gain confidence in their ability to be alone. As they grow up and gain confidence in themselves, their "people" can leave them for longer periods of time.

Some dogs, for various reasons, do not gain confidence in themselves. Some dogs are left alone too long when they are puppies and they become traumatized by the event. Other dogs are neglected or abused and therefore have a low self-esteem. These dogs can be bounced around from owner to owner and usually end up in an animal shelter. After they are adopted to well-meaning people they can still carry their low self-esteem and exhibit their learned behavior of separation anxiety. Other dogs for unknown reasons have a low tolerance for anxiety. And lastly, any dog can become traumatized unbeknownst to their "people" by some event and can spontaneously begin to experience separation anxiety.

All of these types of dogs can show profound anxiety when being left alone, or simply out of eye-sight of their "people." The process of teaching them self-confidence and the ability to entertain themselves can be time consuming and requires a lot of patience and positive reinforcement. Here's how to do it:

Preventing separation anxiety

It's good for your Labradoodle dog or puppy to be comfortable when home alone. You can help him learn this if you take a little time and use these simple steps.

Begin by changing your "leaving" routine. Labradoodles that exhibit separation anxiety usually begin to get anxious long before you walk out the door. Most people have a set "leaving" routine that they go through before leaving the house. They put their shoes on, close the windows, lock the doors, jingle the car keys, etc. Dogs learn this routine very quickly and if they already get anxious from being left alone, this long, drawn out "leaving" routine can make matters worse.

When you leave the house, do so promptly. When you leave, say "Take care of the house." Don't make a big deal out of leaving, just start to teach them a phrase that means, "I'll be gone, but I'll be back." Then, when you leave, turn around and come back in after about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Say hello to your dog in a low-key manner and go about your day. You need to be low-key so that you teach your dog to be low-key. If you are overly anxious about leaving or coming home you will be conditioning your dog to be anxious as well.

The first day, you will leave and come back about a dozen times. Each time you leave, increase the time you are gone: 1 minute, 2 minutes, 3 minutes, 5 minutes, 7 minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes, 45 minutes, etc. Any time you come home and your dog was exhibiting his

Labradoodle Savvy

anxious behavior (chewing, barking, etc.) cut the time you leave in half next time. If he's still experiencing separation anxiety, cut your time in half again! Once your dog is no longer anxious, start increasing the times again.

Because of the time and commitment involved in these exercises, it is best if do this on your vacation time for the first week or until you build up to about 4 hours of being gone with no anxiety from your dog. If vacation time is impossible, then start on Friday afternoon or evening, and make this your primary activity for the whole weekend. Then repeat this again the following weekend, varying the time you are gone. Leave for 30 minutes, then for 5 minutes, then for 10 minutes, then for 2 hours, etc.

Labradoodles are social animals, and any Labradoodle that spends 8-10 hours a day, everyday all alone may begin to exhibit obsessive behaviors that may or may not develop into separation anxiety. A dog that experiences separation anxiety usually does his damage as soon as (or very shortly after) you leave the house. A dog that is bored and lonely will become destructive after a few hours (usually 4-6) of being left alone.

Another great confidence builder for Labradoodles is any type of doggie class. Even if your Labradoodle knows all the obedience commands, he will benefit from a class situation. Taking your dog to a doggie class increases his confidence in being able to handle new situations. It also increases his confidence in you as "leader."

Most importantly, it gives him the opportunity to socialize with other dogs and people, and spend quality time you.

If your Labradoodle is an "only" dog it is possible that this exacerbates his separation anxiety. Some Labradoodles that do not have canine companionship become overly dependent on their humans. Sometimes referred to as "Velcro-dogs" (a dog that seems to stick to you where ever you go), they experience a great amount of stress whenever they are not accompanied by a human. Although not recommended as a cure-all, you may want to consider getting another dog or puppy for companionship. Another wonderful option is to find a playmate for your Labradoodle.

A weekly visit to or from a doggie-playmate's house can be very beneficial to "only" dogs (even those that do not suffer from separation anxiety). Labradoodles benefit greatly from canine companionship. Schedule a playtime for your dog, with another dog that he likes, once or twice a week.

Be sure to spend daily quality time with your Labradoodle. One-on-one time spent with your dog for 5 - 20 minutes a day can help him feel more secure in his environment as well as help strengthen the bond between you both.

Even if you have a Velcro-dog, quality, one-on-one time where your attention is focused on your dog is essential. This quality time should not consist of babying, stroking, or cuddling. Instead, it should consist of doing things to build a strong master/dog relationship and bolster the confidence of your Labradoodle. Fun obedience work using positive reinforcement, interspersed with fun games of fetch, chase, and hide & seek can be very beneficial for the psychological well-being of your Labradoodle.

Using a crate

A crate is another good way to prevent or cure separation anxiety in Labradoodles.

- Start by introducing your dog to his crate.
- Crate him for short periods while you are present. Gradually increase the time crated. Reward quiet behavior with calm praise and perhaps a treat such as a piece of dog food (a healthier option than most treats).
- Start leaving your puppy alone – start with just a few minutes at a time, if possible.
- Gradually increase the time spent alone.
- Limit your attention when you are home so it isn't such a shock when you leave.
- Reward your Labradoodle with a piece of food and attention when he lies quietly away from you.

Most Labradoodles don't need to be crated forever, but don't rush freedom. Most Labradoodles aren't ready to be given unsupervised freedom in your home until they are a year-and-a-half or older.

For those who work, consider hiring a walker or neighbor to give your Labradoodle a midday break. Keeping your schedule similar on weekends as on workdays can help make things easier for your dog.

Exercise - and plenty of it - helps dogs who must be alone long hours.

Do's and don'ts

Do make leaving and arriving uneventful. If you make leaving a big production – lots of hugs and goodbyes or asking if he'll miss you – your Labradoodle will assume it's a big deal.

When you return, don't go directly to his crate or room and make a fuss except if your Labradoodle is a young pup or has been left for many hours. In those cases, take him right out as he may really need to relieve himself and making him wait can lead to a wet crate. If you can, wait until your dog is calm and quiet, then casually go greet him and praise him for being calm and quiet.

Always give your Labradoodle puppy an opportunity to eliminate prior to crating him and provide him with an appropriate chew toy.

Signs of serious separation anxiety

Some Labradoodles, especially puppies, may whine or cry a little when left alone. True separation anxiety is defined as destructive or disruptive behavior, including tearing up the room, constant barking and whining, or houstraining mistakes every time you leave – often starting immediately after you leave. For cases where the strategy above doesn't work, you may want to consult a qualified dog trainer or behavior professional.



Whining

In the middle of the night, at the dinner table, at the door – whining is annoying. Learn what whining means and how to correct it.

Why Labradoodle dogs whine

People often try to comfort whining dogs. But in reality, your Labradoodle is often demanding something – and when you give it, you've just taught him that whining works!

- Whining can mean many things, but it almost always means your dog wants something:
- A Labradoodle whining when you are sitting down to eat is probably saying, 'Give me your food.'

- A Labradoodle whining at the back door or bedroom door is probably saying, 'I want to come in.'
- A Labradoodle whining in his kennel or crate at night is probably saying, 'I want out now!'
- A housetrained Labradoodle whining while inside may be saying, 'I need to go outside!'

What to do

What you want to do is establish when whining is OK (rarely) and when it is not okay (most of the time). When your Labradoodle understands that, he's less likely to whine. As always, the following tips are more effective the sooner you do them:

- If your Labradoodle is whining to go out and go to the bathroom, be sure to comply. Go out, take care of business, and come back in with no play.
- In all other cases of whining, be strong. Don't give in.
- When your Labradoodle whines, give him something productive to do like 'sit' or 'down' - have him do several commands in a row and then praise him calmly.
- Try to notice the sweet sounds of silence and praise your Labradoodle then. If he gets attention for being quiet, he should start weaning off the whining.
- Make your Labradoodle's crate a comfortable den so your dog will like time there. Make it cozy and include toys. Crate him for short periods, often, so he learns to accept it calmly.
- If your Labradoodle suddenly starts whining "out of the blue," take him to the veterinarian. He may be in pain.

What NOT to do

Don't give in! Every time your Labradoodle gets what he wants when he whines, you teach him that whining works. Like people, dogs do what works so he'll whine more and longer next time. Do it enough times and your Labradoodle will view whining as the best way to get what he wants. Also, avoid giving in after holding out for a long time. If your dog or new puppy

whines when left alone for the night, and you let him whine for three hours and then give in, your Labradoodle will think that whining for three hours is the best way to get your attention (which is what your pup wanted in the first place.)



Jumping up

Labradoodles are very excitable and tend to be very “bouncy” particularly when they meet people.

Jumping Labradoodles are a traditional greeting at doors across America. Guests hate it. Owners hate it. And dogs are having a field day because they get more attention than ever.

Why Labradoodles jump

Dogs jump up on people because they’re excited, they’ve been encouraged to do so or, in some rare cases, because they are being less than friendly.

Think about it. Labradoodles jumping to greet people at the door is natural. They see us talking at eye level, and they want to be at eye level, too. So they jump to try to get up to eye level and greet the person at the door. But what results is a nightmare as people then push the dog away (an action that Labradoodle’s consider to be playtime) and yelling.

There’s really one main way to try and cure the problem of having a Labradoodle jump at you when you enter the house. Simply ignore the dog. When you enter your house, cross your arms over your chest and look straight ahead or up at the sky. Pretend that the dog isn’t there at all, until it calms down. You might want to set some of its favorite toys next to the door so you can throw it at the ground when you enter the house in order to divert its attention.

Another tactic is to get a friend to help you. Ask the other person to ring the doorbell 10 times every 30 seconds. You should sit in your living room as if nothing is going on. Completely ignore the doorbell. Your dog at first might jump toward the door. But as the doorbell ringing persists, it will stop.

Teach your Labradoodle to sit not jump

A really neat way to prevent and solve this problem is to simply teach your Labradoodle to sit and greet people as opposed to jumping on them. As with

most behavior problems, preventing/redirecting the unwanted behavior while encouraging better behavior is an effective plan.

First teach your dog to sit. Then Practice "sit". Have your Labradoodle sit for everything he enjoys in life from food to petting, from opening a door to throwing a toy. Soon your dog will learn to associate sitting with everything good and this will give him something else to do other than jump.

Now it is time to have your dog practice sitting for a family member or friend. Have them repeat the same steps you did. At this stage, your Labradoodle has surely learned that sitting in front of people is a surefire way to getting praise and treats.

Next practice sitting to greet people at the front door. Don't be surprised if your dog needs a little extra help here. The front door is an exciting place for a dog. So, stay calm, keep your dog on leash for control and safety and reward like crazy for polite greetings!

Don't reward jumping. If you pet, hug or respond excitedly when he jumps, he'll think you like it. When your dog jumps, step forward toward your dog and say 'Off!' in a low tone. ('Off' is the preferred command since 'Down' is usually used for lie down.)

If he puts four on the floor, praise him calmly. Now direct him to 'sit' and calmly praise him again. A food reward would be good as well. If he does not respond, try luring him off you with a treat – preferably a piece of his food, – and into a sit. Practicing this can quickly give him an acceptable way to greet you.

For your guests

Consistency is key to training a dog. Stand next to your guest and practice your greeting routine with your dog. Practice with dog-loving friends who understand that training takes time. If this isn't possible with some guests, then prevent the issue entirely by confining your dog when your guests arrive. You can always bring him out later, on lead, when things are calmer.

After a week or two, randomize with what and when you reward. Sometimes offer him a treat. Other times toss a ball after he sits nicely. And still other times simply offer calm, happy praise. This way you keep your dog guessing and don't end up with a dog who sits only when he sees a treat.



Labradoodle Toys And Games

Foods, treats or praise will bring out the best responses from your Labradoodles during training.

Treats can come in the form of their favorite food, toy or something the Labradoodle really loves to do.

Whenever practicing any obedience training and upon finishing, one owner and his Labradoodle will have a big play time by running and throwing his favorite toys. Other Labradoodles prefer to go for rides, enjoying the wind in their faces, or even playing football!

Some Labradoodles will take the commands in training with great joy knowing that they will get something to eat!

Some favorites are ice cream, cheese, ham and chicken. One Labradoodle fancies a handful of ice cubes to crunch on though he's not thirsty.

The all time dog favorites of fetching and hide and seek games can be made more treasured using your Labradoodle's favorite ball or toy, and giving him plenty of stroking in between throws.



Exercise And Play

Labradoodle dogs typically need 60 minutes of exercise a day whether it is a brisk walk, a jog, or chasing a ball.

Outdoor space is essential for Labradoodles. In the coldest part of the winter, that can be a challenge. Always have your dog's health evaluated by his veterinarian before you begin an exercise program.

Always check with your veterinarian before starting a new and demanding activity with your Labradoodle. Once you get the go ahead - have fun!

Some ways to make exercise and play a part of your dog's life:

Check with breeders and dog clubs for direction. Ask when the next obedience or agility classes will start and enter your Labradoodle just for the fun of it.

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Even if he is already trained, attending a refresher class will give him an opportunity to interact with other dogs and focus some of his energy into an appropriate behavior.

In the winter, wrap up warm and go for a walk. Even a short walk is preferable to no walk. Find a place with a windbreak and dress appropriately.

Treadmills are trendy for people and can be fun for dogs. You can teach your dog how to walk on the treadmill. Don't ever leave your Labradoodle unattended, don't allow the leash to dangle where it could tangle and, like you, build up his endurance slowly.

Have your veterinarian instruct you how to detect possible warning signs, which may indicate your Labradoodle has exercised too much.

Do

Consider your Labradoodle's needs and present physical condition. Leisurely walks may be best for an older Labradoodle while a young adult dog will have ample energy for a vigorous exercise program. Labradoodle puppies should not stress their growing bones, joints or muscles through excessive jumping or strenuous exercise. Be sensible about what you ask your Labradoodle to do. Hard games of fetch or catching a flying disc burn off a lot of steam, but they also stress a dog's joints to the maximum.

Go slow! If you have not exercised your Labradoodle regularly and decide to launch a regular exercise program, begin with short periods of activity at slow speeds and gradually increase the time, speed and distance.

Begin walking or running your Labradoodle on soft surfaces such as dirt, sand or grass until his pads toughen. Keep your dog's nails trimmed so they won't tear as he runs.

Keep your Labradoodle on a leash; it gives you control when walking or running.

If you exercise at night, place a reflective collar on your Labradoodle, use a bright colored leash and wear white or light-colored clothing so the two of you can be seen.

Check your Labradoodle's feet for the presence of burrs, grass, thorns, rocks or ice and snow, all of which should be removed immediately.

Check carefully for ticks after exercising outdoors. Read more about ticks.

Obey local laws about cleaning up after your dog and using a leash. Your police department or animal control department can tell you more about laws in your area.

Don't

Exercise your Labradoodle immediately before or after he has eaten; a full stomach may cause digestive upsets. Provide only small amounts of water before and directly after exercise.

Go out in the noonday sun. Running in the heat is dangerous for Labradoodles, Just because he is willing to jog with you in 90-degree heat doesn't mean it is safe for him to do so.

Raise a couch potato. Labradoodles can live longer, healthier lives if kept lean and fit. If you love your dog, you'll exercise him.



Games To Play With Labradoodle Puppies

Games are fun, but they can also teach your Labradoodle puppy valuable skills like retrieving, searching, and obedience. Depending on your puppy's personality and temperament, you can teach your puppy variations of games as vast as your imagination.

Fetch is a favorite game and can be useful for reinforcing the "coming when called" command, as well as teaching your puppy to bring the newspaper or your slippers if you are so inclined.

Find-the-toy type games teach your puppy to rely on his sense of smell and use his brain. They can also prepare your puppy for tracking.

Tug is a natural instinct but be careful. When you remember that each game teaches your Labradoodle something, you will realize that tug teaches your Labradoodle to fight with you. If your puppy has a dominant streak the game may get out of hand. Make sure you are the one to start and finish this game and that your puppy drops the toy on command.

Agility games are a great way to burn off extra calories and energy. They also increase your puppy's coordination and confidence. Labradoodles love the

challenge of negotiating obstacles as well as getting the praise you give when they do well. But before you start, be sure to find a trainer who understands that Labradoodle puppies should not stress their growing bones, joints or muscles through excessive jumping or strenuous exercise. Furthermore, keep in mind that Labradoodles are prone to back problems, so be careful what type of games you play.

In the end, games are about a connection between you and your puppy. Sure, your puppy has toys that are fun and provide entertainment. But games include you, and that's the best as far as your puppy is concerned.



Dog Sports

Dog sports are increasing in popularity every year. More and more events are being televised, from agility contests to dog shows, and there really is something for every dog (and person) to participate in and enjoy.

Choosing a Sport

In order to choose a sport, you have to know a little about each one. Here's a short description of some of the more common dog events your Labradoodle can likely participate in:

Agility

Dogs race over, through and around obstacles as quickly as possible with the human keeping up and giving the directions. Most dogs and people can enjoy learning the basics of this sport even if competition is not a goal. Different size dogs jump different height jumps, so many toy breeds can compete with great success. Read more about Agility Courses.

Conformation

This is what most people think of when they hear "dog show" – a contest to see which purebred dog most closely conforms to its breed standard. Some of the largest shows are now televised, so everyone can enjoy the glamour of these events.

Obedience

While many of us struggle to get our dogs to sit, obedience competitors teach their dogs a complex series of behaviors on which they are judged.

Other activities

There are numerous other sports in which to participate: pet assisted therapy, ski-joring, tracking, herding, Rally-O, dancing with dogs, hunt tests, backpacking, carting, swim tests, earth dog tests, sledding and much, much more are all available. Conduct a little research, invest your time and energy in training and you and your dog can join in the fun.

Things to Consider

Age

Labradoodle dogs need to be fully mature to start doing strenuous physical activity, but do not let that stop you from starting to teach your pup the basics of the sport you're interested in early. Just work with a sensible trainer and take things easy until your veterinarian tells you it is safe for your Labradoodle to compete.

Soundness

A strong body is a requirement for many sports. No matter what your dream is, if your Labradoodle isn't built for it or doesn't enjoy it, then it is time to adjust your plans. You and your dog are a team. It is your job to make sure your Labradoodle is safe, pain-free and happy.

Time to devote

The more strenuous the sport, the more time is needed both for training and for conditioning your Labradoodle to peak physical condition. Training or competing with a dog that is not in top physical form can lead to injury. So your choices are to devote the time needed to succeed, participate in a less intense way or find another sport that you can more easily work into your schedule.

Few things are as rewarding as competing with your Labradoodle, having all your months and years of training come together seamlessly so you both do your best. Win or lose, such moments are among the rewards of Labradoodle ownership.



Good Toys For A Labradoodle Puppy

One of your Labradoodle puppy's "jobs" is to chew. It may relieve some of the pain of teething, it may be the practice of feeding skills, it may be just something to do, but chewing is a huge part of puppy's first year. Your job is to supply appropriate toys for chewing so he won't choose your shoes.

Squeaky toys, rattling toys, and those with bells are great fun. Most such toys are also destructible, so monitor your puppy if he has moved into a destructive phase. Squeakers and nylon pieces are better in the toy and as part of the toy than in your puppy - so don't let him chew and swallow any pieces.

Toys made of hard rubber are sturdy and come in various shapes and sizes. Insert a biscuit treat or peanut butter into rubber toys with holes, and puppy will be highly entertained. To aid in cleaning puppy's teeth, choose dental toys or chews that are made with bumps and grooves.

Be sure to rotate the toys puppy plays with each week. Otherwise, he may get bored with them and ignore them in favor of something new, like the sheetrock or your sneakers.



Feeding Your Labradoodle

Giving your Labradoodle a raw, natural diet (as opposed to commercially prepared one) makes the feeding task flexible and you get to control the quality of the food your Labradoodle is getting.

The Biologically Appropriate Raw Food or “BARF” diet is easy to prepare. You are basically feeding him “bones and raw food”, adding in or taking out supplement as needed.

It is better to first understand the principles behind this feeding method. And there are excellent reference books available on this subject matter.

Basically, the BARF diet is made up of raw meat and raw meaty bones, raw processed vegetables plus dairy products, eggs, fish, offal, muscle meats, fruit and maybe some supplements. It is a very balanced diet and you get to control the ingredients as well as the quality. Some people leave out dairy products or grains.

On the other hand, an owner suggests that you keep a Labradoodle healthy with occasional yogurt treats.

Labradoodles tend to have lots of food allergies. One owner put an ailing and lethargic Labradoodle on a strictly venison diet and your dog finally thrived, gained weight and became very active.

There is also a recent concern about eating a large amount of grapes or raisins, since they can be toxic to dogs, leading to acute kidney failure.

The reports concerning this grape/raisin poisoning have only just surfaced and the information is still sketchy at best. The Animal Poison Control Center in the US is investigating this new medical development.

Some questions remaining to be answered are:

- How much grapes or raisins eaten could become toxic to your dog?
- What is the toxic substance?
- How does it affect the kidney?

To be safe, have your veterinarian check your Labradoodle if he has eaten a large amount of grapes or raisins because a healthy kidney is key to its survival.



More On Choosing Dog Food For Your Labradoodle

Even before your Labradoodle comes home, you should decide on a dog food. It has to be healthy, tasty and it has to fit your lifestyle.

Nutritional claims

Read the label for nutritional claims.

Look for life stage claims. For example, a puppy food should say it is complete and balanced for "growth" or "all life stages". Foods balanced for "the maintenance of an adult dog" won't give a puppy enough nutrition.

Types of food

There is a wide variety of commercially produced dog food available in a variety of styles. Choose the one that fits your needs, your Labradoodle's needs and your budget.

Dry food is an extremely popular choice for Labradoodle puppy owners. It tastes good, is easy to store, and has more nutrition per pound on a dry matter basis than other types. It also helps keep teeth clean.

Soft and moist food is increasing in popularity. Moist chunks are enjoyable for your dog to eat, meaning he's likely to eat all his food and get all the needed nutrition.

Canned foods are the most palatable for your Labradoodle. However, due to their high water content, they contain less nutrition per pound of food, so you will need to feed your Labradoodle a higher volume. Also watch for dental issues - soft foods don't scrape the teeth like dry diets.

Guaranteed analysis

Look at the levels of calories, protein, fat, and other nutrients in a food declared on the package. You can compare these analyses between foods as long as they are foods of the same type; for example, all canned foods will have less protein per pound or cup than dry food because canned foods contain so much moisture, so in this case you need to compare them by daily feeding amount - you will feed more of the canned food per day. But you can compare dry to dry or canned to canned.

While this comparison might help you select in some circumstances - for example, you may want to feed an overweight dog a food with less calories per cup or a hardworking dog a food with more calories per cup - your best bet is to use the nutritional claims and look for a food that is appropriate for your dog's life stage. More or less of a particular nutrient may be good or it may not - too much calcium can lead to bone problems, for example (read more about these types of nutritional balances in About Minerals).

Other considerations

Since this is a decision you want to make once and stick with, consider other aspects of the food including:

- Flavor - does your dog seem to enjoy it?
- Availability - can you get your chosen food easily?
- Cost - does it fit comfortably in your monthly budget?
- Reputation - do you know people who have used and recommend the food? Is the manufacturer reputable?
- Special needs - if your dog has specific nutritional needs identified by a veterinarian, does this food meet those needs?
- With these guidelines, you can find the food that's right for you and your dog.



Pet Food Labels

Pet food labels provide the pet owner with a great deal of information. But what do they mean? When evaluating potential diets for your Labradoodle, you may want to know more about what you are reading. Here is a rundown of many of the types of information you may find on a dog food label.

Caloric statement

Dog food labels may have a statement of the calorie content of the product. Calories are stated in terms of metabolizable kilocalories per kilogram (ME kcal/kg) of food and may also be expressed as calories per unit of household measure such as per cup or per can.

Manufacturers may determine the calorie content of their product through calculations based on laboratory analysis of the product or through feeding trial procedures established by AAFCO (The Association of American Feed

Control Officials, an independent body that sets guidelines for the pet food industry.)

Additives

Two types of additives are included in pet food products; those that are nutritional and those that add other benefits.

Nutritional additives include vitamins, minerals, fats and amino acids. They permit the supplementation of a product to increase single nutrient levels without disturbing the levels of other nutrients in the diet.

An animal's body cannot distinguish between vitamins that occur in natural ingredients and those which are produced synthetically. The use of synthetic nutrients helps achieve the high degree of nutritional balance found in good-quality pet foods.

The pet food label lists a number of ingredients which do not necessarily provide nutrient benefits, but which do have a specific purpose in the diet. These types of additives are detailed below:

- **Antioxidants** - Ingredients such as mixed tocopherols are added to the fats in pet foods at extremely low levels to prevent rancidity and, thus, prevent the unpleasant odor, loss of palatability, and destruction of vitamins that can occur when fats go rancid.
- **Chemical preservatives** - Preservatives are used in semi-moist-type pet foods to prevent spoilage. These include such ingredients as propylene glycol, sorbic acid, and potassium sorbate. All ingredients of this type must be approved by the FDA for use and are identified as a preservative.
- **Flavoring agents** - Flavorings are a convenient way to make products more appealing to dogs. Some may have complicated chemical names, but others such as garlic and onion are also used as flavoring agents.
- **Coloring** - Colors are added to some pet foods to help maintain a consistent product appearance because the color of natural ingredients can vary, or to distinguish between flavors in a multi-particle food. Artificial colors used in pet foods are the same as those approved for use in human foods and are approved by the FDA.

Feeding directions

Information in this section should also include the amount of food recommended, which will be a "rule of thumb" or a starting point. Actual feeding amounts will depend on age, activity, size, environment and body metabolism and is best determined by you observing your Labradoodle's body condition.

Dog food labeled as complete and balanced for any or all life stages is required to list feeding directions for each life stage declared on the product label. These directions are expressed in common terms and appear prominently on the label.

Guaranteed analysis

Certain nutrient guarantees are required on the label of all pet foods. These are:

- % Crude protein (minimum amount)
- % Crude fat (minimum amount)
- % Crude fiber (maximum amount)
- % Moisture (maximum amount)

If the manufacturer desires to list any additional guarantees such as vitamins and minerals, in the units defined by AAFCO, these will be shown after moisture.

The reason for the word crude is that the minimum or maximum amount shown is determined by lab assay and is not the amount actually utilized by the animal. Consequently, figures given in the guaranteed analyses do not necessarily indicate nutritional balance or product quality.

Ingredient listing

All ingredients used in the manufacture of the pet food shall be listed in the ingredient list on the label. The ingredients shall be listed in descending order of predominance by weight. No reference can be given to ingredient quality or grade in the ingredient list. The names of all ingredients must be shown in letters that are the same size, color and type.



Nutrition For Labradoodle Puppies

The nutritional needs of Labradoodle puppies are greater than at any time in a Labradoodle's life other than reproduction. Understanding what your puppy needs will help you make the right dietary choices.

What happens

The puppy stage sets the foundation for a Labradoodle's whole life. The length of this period can vary; the rule of thumb is 18 months for Labradoodles. A lot of physical development happens in a very short time, including:

- Bones and joints growing to full size
- Muscles developing and growing
- Internal organs growing (this continues even after your dog appears to be full size)
- Immune system developing and learning to protect
- Cognitive development and brain growth

Labradoodle puppy's nutritional needs

Supporting that level of development – similar to what a human goes through from birth to 14 years of age – in just one or two years takes the right level of nutrition. This includes:

- **Protein** – A key building block of muscle, skin, coat, organs and other tissues. During this period of growth, a puppy needs abundant protein
- **Calcium and Phosphorus** – Necessary ingredients for healthy bones and teeth. They must be present in the correct ratios to grow bones and teeth correctly
- **Omega Fatty Acids, including Linoleic acid** – Provides complete and balanced nutrition, promotes a healthy immune system and helps keep your puppy's skin and coat healthy

These are not the only needs of a puppy, of course. What your Labradoodle puppy eats will need to supply all of these and more. And how the ingredients are mixed is important as well.

Do's and don'ts

Be sure to follow the feeding guidelines. One of the worst things you can do is allow your puppy to become overweight – it has serious health implications.

Don't feed your puppy from the table. People food often adds calories and unneeded fat to a Labradoodle's diet, and it can make your puppy into a finicky eater.

When you change foods, gradually mix the new food in with the old over two weeks. If you gradually increase the amount of new food and decrease the amount of old, you'll make the transition easier on your puppy.

Feed at the same times every day; 3 times a day for young Labradoodle puppies, 2 times per day for older puppies, and 1 time per day for adults (this amount can be broken into 2 or more feedings per day.)



Nutrition For Adult Labradoodle Dogs

When a Labradoodle reaches full maturity, it enters the maintenance period. The objective of feeding at this time is to maintain a healthy body condition while supplying needed nutrients and energy.

Feeding basics

Normal healthy dogs who are not pregnant, nursing, or hardworking have relatively low nutritional requirements for maintaining an appropriate body condition. Unlike Labradoodle puppies, who are developing into their adult bodies, adult Labradoodles need to keep the bodies they have healthy and strong.

If your Labradoodle doesn't have these conditions, you want to feed a nutritionally complete and balanced dog food in amounts that will keep your Labradoodle in ideal body condition. A good body condition is one in which the animal is well proportioned, with an observable waist behind the ribcage, and ribs that can be felt with a slight fat covering over them.

Tips for proper feeding

Choose a nutritionally complete and balanced dog food.

Labradoodle Savvy

Providing a proper diet for an adult Labradoodle can be straightforward and simple without the need for supplements of any kind.

If supplemental meat or table scraps are fed, they should account for no more than 10% of the total diet.

For Labradoodles with lower caloric needs and/or for Labradoodles that are less active, attention should be paid to the potential for excessive weight gain.

Often a Labradoodle's weight can be reduced simply by eliminating table scraps and treats from the diet and by avoiding high-energy dog foods.

Feeding recommendations for adult Labradoodles can vary, depending upon the dog's activity, metabolism and owner's preference.

Whether or not an animal is fed once or twice each day, it should be fed at the same time, and fresh drinking water should always be made available.

A Labradoodle's appetite may vary from day to day and should not be a concern unless the loss of appetite persists or your Labradoodle shows signs of illness or weight loss. In these situations your Labradoodle should be examined by a veterinarian.

Switching foods

Dogs, including Labradoodles, do not need variety in their diet. In fact, it is best to switch foods as little as possible to avoid creating a finicky eater. But when you do need to change foods (such as when your Labradoodle turns 5 years old for and starts eating senior food), gradually mix the new food in with the old over 7 - 10 days. If you gradually increase the amount of new food and decrease the amount of old, you'll make the transition easier on your dog.



Nutrition For Inactive Labradoodle Dogs

Labradoodle Dogs that don't get much exercise don't need as many calories as Labradoodles that do. You should pay attention to your Labradoodle's energy level, potential reasons your dog's energy level might change and things you can do to keep your less active Labradoodle fit.

Inactive Labradoodles are more likely to put on extra pounds since they don't burn as many calories. This puts them at risk for obesity, which carries with it a greater risk for a variety of health ailments. Learn more about Obesity.

What Is an inactive Labradoodle?

There is no precise definition for an inactive Labradoodle, but you probably can tell if your dog fits this category. Inactive Labradoodles don't get much exercise and often don't seem to have much interest in exercise -

Labradoodles that prefer to sleep, don't run when they go outside or tend to move as little as possible most likely fit this category.

Why is a Labradoodle inactive?

Labradoodle Dogs might be inactive for a variety of reasons:

- **Age:** As Labradoodles grow older, their energy level tends to drop.
- **Illness or Injury:** Physical ailments can make it harder to move as much. These might be temporary slowdowns, but adjustments should still be made.
- **Overweight:** Labradoodles that are overweight may tend to be less active. This can create a dangerous spiral. The more overweight, the less active, and the less active, the more overweight.

Feeding an inactive Labradoodle

If you have an inactive Labradoodle, you should try to feed the right amount of calories for your dog's activity level. If your Labradoodle is in ideal body condition and isn't gaining weight, you're feeding the right amount. But if your dog has become less active while his feeding has remained the same and he's getting overweight, try these tips:

1. First, cut back on treats and snacks. These are generally high in calories and may contribute to weight gain.

2. The second step can be to feed less of the animal's regular pet food. Measure the amount of food that's put into the pet's dish to prevent the serving size from increasing over time.
3. Third, owners can increase a Labradoodle's exercise with additional walks or playtime each day. This helps you the owner as well as your Labradoodle, and has the additional benefit of increasing the amount of time you spend together.
4. Finally, you could consider switching to a reduced-calorie food. These products are designed to allow you to serve a nice-size portion while still reducing the calories the animal eats.

It is always a good idea to consult with a veterinarian before changing a Labradoodle's diet. The veterinarian can help tailor program for an individual pet and can track progress and help troubleshoot along the way.



Nutrition For Senior Labradoodles

When Labradoodles move into their senior years – usually defined as 7 years of age or older – they can often benefit from a diet tailored to their particular life stage. Here are some ways to tell what your Labradoodle needs and how to provide it.

Signs of a senior Labradoodle dog

By the most common definition, Labradoodles cross into their senior years when they enter the final 25% of their expected lifespan.

As a good rule of thumb, you should start looking for the Seven Signs of Senior at about seven years of age. Those signs include:

1. Graying muzzle or coat – or other coat conditions that weren't there before
2. Slowing down and staying down – less energy, trouble getting up or limping
3. Sleeping more – a common side effect of aging

4. Changing habits – including play preferences and eating or drinking habits
5. Change in weight – some dogs gain weight as they age while others lose
6. Bad breath – a sign of dental and gum problems, sometimes exacerbated by age
7. Hearing or vision changes – like humans, senses can dull over time

If you see these signs, you should consult your veterinarian. There may be options to treat or reduce the symptoms. Also, these signs could also be related to another issue besides aging that your veterinarian might catch.

Feeding a senior Labradoodle dog

If you have a generally healthy Labradoodle over seven years of age, your dog may benefit from a properly balanced senior dog food. Older Labradoodles sometimes have different needs than adult Labradoodles, and foods can be tailored to help meet those needs. Consult your veterinarian for more information.

One changing need that should be tracked is reduced activity level, a common sign of aging. Less active animals may have reduced energy requirements. Over-feeding may predispose animals to obesity, which is associated with various physical disorders. For these reasons, it is particularly important to feed older dogs according to their individual needs and to maintain a healthy body condition.

Also note that older Labradoodles may have difficulty chewing as a result of dental issues. In this situation, you may want to moisten dry food to make it more palatable.



Treats In A Balanced Diet

Treats are a popular tool to use in training, and many people like to give their Labradoodles little tidbits of food as a way to show affection. But from a nutritional point of view, treats can be problematic. If the treats are too rich, your Labradoodle can develop an upset stomach. Feed too many, and you could be on your way to an overweight dog.

Labradoodles get all of the nutrition they need and all the calories they need from a complete and balanced dog food. Treats that are given in addition to a Labradoodle's regular diet add calories, fat and extra nutrients that may not be good for your dog.

The risks of excessive treats

The extra calories contained in dog treats and people food can be a leading issue in giving treats. These extra calories, if not burned off through extra play and exercise, can lead to weight gain and even obesity, which carries with it increased risk of a number of dangerous issues.

In addition to extra calories and fat, people food can also raise a host of additional problems. The wrong food in the wrong doses can result in unexpected consequences. To avoid these, the safest thing to do is never supplement you Labradoodle's diet with people food.

Responsible use of treats for Labradoodles

A safe way to use food as treats is to measure out your Labradoodle's daily allowance of kibble in the morning and dip into that for training treats. This way you can give your dog a food reward for a job well done while not worrying about causing any problems.

Of course, it is possible to use manufactured dog treats responsibly. Simply remember that if you feed your Labradoodle treats, they should be low fat and you must reduce your dog's caloric intake accordingly to accommodate for the extra calories.

When training, you want to work away from giving a food reward every time. Sometimes you will want your dog to sit but you won't have any food. So start gradually replacing the treat with praise. Once your dog has learned a command, give the treat every other time, then every third time.

Make sure your praise is lavish every time, with or without a treat. Pretty soon, your puppy will work for praise - and the occasional snack.



Supplements

Some people worry that their Labradoodles aren't getting all the nutrition they need. They may supplement their Labradoodles' diets with people food or with vitamin or mineral supplements similar to those many humans take. But if you're already feeding a nutritionally complete and balanced dog food for the appropriate life stage, these supplements are unnecessary and could possibly be harmful.

When it comes to providing optimum nutrition for Labradoodles, reputable pet food manufacturers have done the work for us. Research scientists have formulated commercial diets containing all the nutrients normal, healthy dogs need for a particular life stage. For Labradoodles with certain health conditions, there are special dog foods that are designed to help address those issues. Your veterinarian can help you choose the right food.

People food

Supplementing with human food adds calories to a pet's diet, which may lead to an obese Labradoodle and can unbalance a pet's diet. People food can lead to other issues depending on the food and the amounts in which it is fed.

Vitamin and mineral supplements for Labradoodles

Vitamin and mineral supplements are best left to the experts. For example, some Labradoodle owners believe that additional calcium, and possibly other minerals, should be added to the diets of pregnant and nursing females and growing puppies.

It is true that more minerals are needed at these times, but they are normally obtained through increased consumption of a high quality nutritionally balanced diet. Adding them out of proportion to other nutrients can create skeletal deformities and other problems. Learn more about the interactions of minerals.

Always talk to your veterinarian if you think supplements may be needed. Your veterinarian can make that call, and if they are needed, will prescribe the right minerals in the right amounts.



Weight Gain

As a symptom, weight gain can point to a few different issues, but the cause is always the same: Your Labradoodle is consuming more calories than it is burning. The cause is usually very mundane - overfeeding by the owner - but the effects can be serious. Do not write weight gain off as a harmless issue.

Determining weight gain

The truth is, 'weight gain' is not really the issue. Labradoodles, like people, can and should gain weight at certain times - puppyhood is the obvious example. As a Labradoodle puppy gets larger and fills out, you are going to see some weight gain.

The real problem to watch for is changes in body condition. It is very important that you learn how to evaluate your Labradoodle's body condition and monitor it from puppyhood on.

Risks of weight gain

When extra weight adds up over time, it can lead to obesity, which can result in certain health problems involving the cardiovascular, respiratory and skeletal systems. Learn more about problems associated with Obesity and ways to address them.

If you determine that your Labradoodle is overfed, the cause is almost always overfeeding and/or lack of exercise. But there can be root causes, such as injury, illness, aging or changes in metabolism. These conditions might carry their own risks above and beyond weight gain.

How to address weight gain in Labradoodles

Since most weight gain comes from too much food or too little exercise, start with these easy steps:

Follow the guidelines on the Body Condition and Obesity pages, including eliminating table scraps, reducing treats, and reducing the amount you feed.

If you think you might want to try a reduced calorie food, consult your veterinarian about the best course to take.

If the weight gain is sudden or there is no clear cause, or if usual weight loss or maintenance practices don't seem to help (for example, if your

Labradoodle has trouble exercising more), go to your veterinarian. There may be other conditions that need treatment or analysis.



Obesity

Obesity is one of the leading nutritional disorders among Labradoodles. Studies suggest that approximately 25 percent of the Labradoodles presented to veterinary clinics are overweight. This extra weight puts pets at risk for certain health problems. Know how to recognize obesity, what causes it, and how to correct – or better yet, prevent – it.

Definition of obesity

Labradoodle Dogs that have an accumulation of body fat that puts them 20% or more over ideal body weight are considered obese. These dogs often have fat deposits over the thorax, spine and the base of the tail, as well as the neck and limbs.

Obesity is a major concern because it disposes a Labradoodle to certain health problems involving the cardiovascular, respiratory and skeletal systems. And as revealed in a study by Nestlé Purina, dogs fed to a lean body condition may live longer than dogs allowed to eat more freely.

Recognizing obesity

Owners are so familiar with the appearance of their Labradoodles that they often fail to recognize obesity unaided. Try these techniques, and if you think your dog may be obese or aren't sure, have your veterinarian take a look.

- **Rib check:** Place both of your thumbs on your dog's backbone and spread both hands across his rib cage. On an obese dog, you won't be able to feel the ribs through the fat covering, or will only be able to feel them when you exert significant pressure. Actually feeling your dog is important, as the coat of many dogs will make a visual check difficult.
- **Profile check:** Examine your dog's profile – it's best if you are level with the dog. In an obese dog, the stomach will hang down and there will be no abdominal tuck behind the rib cage.
- **Overhead check:** Looking at your dog from overhead, see if you can see a waist behind the ribs. An overweight dog will not have a discernible waist.

It's a good idea to learn more about how to rate your dog's body condition.

Causes of obesity

The simple reason why Labradoodles gain weight to the point that they become obese is because they are consuming more calories than they burn through exercise and metabolism, but the cause of this discrepancy can have different sources.

Diet and exercise

For Labradoodles who are simply eating more calories than they burn, there are two ways to impact the animal's weight: feed fewer calories, or increase the amount of exercise the pet gets, thus burning more calories.

Genetic predisposition

Certain breeds seem to be more susceptible to obesity than others including beagles, basset hounds, Labradoodles and Labrador retrievers. You must watch the weight of dogs of these breeds more closely. However, Labradoodles can also be prone to put on weight if you are not careful.

Hormonal disorders

Conditions which impact hormone balances in dogs may contribute to the development of obesity. These include thyroid or pituitary gland dysfunction. Neutering and spaying may also cause changes in metabolism. You must watch the weight of Labradoodles with these conditions more closely.

How to correct obesity in Labradoodles

If you know or suspect your Labradoodle is obese, see your veterinarian before making any significant changes. Your veterinarian will recommend a regimen that includes some or all of the tips below, and will tell you how much your dog can handle and how quickly:

- Eliminate table scraps and treats
- Reduce the amount of food you give your dog
- Increase the amount of exercise your dog gets
- Consider switching to a low-calorie pet food

Preventing obesity in Labradoodles

As always, the best thing you can do for your Labradoodle is not let him get obese in the first place. Here are some small steps you can take to control your Labradoodle's food intake and calorie expenditure:

- Don't feed table scraps; they are typically high in calories.
- Limit treats. Remember that if you feed your dog treats, they should be low-fat and you must reduce your dog's caloric intake accordingly to accommodate the extra calories.
- Make sure your dog gets exercise regularly, and try to make time for extra.
- Measure servings – don't just eyeball the amount you serve. And don't use an oversized bowl, which makes it easier to overfeed.
- Try feeding two or more smaller meals a day instead of one big meal so your dog feels more satisfied.
- Utilize the feeding guides provided on pet food packages. Remember, these guidelines are averages and you may need to adjust your feedings based on your dog's individual body condition.



Finicky Eating

Sometimes it can be hard to get your Labradoodle to eat his complete and balanced dog food. This can be a problem, especially if it means your dog is not getting enough nutrition or is getting the wrong nutrition from somewhere else.

What Is finicky eating?

As a rule, finicky eating is when your Labradoodle will only eat certain things. It is sometimes manifested in a dog who refuses to eat the complete and balanced dog food you offer or doesn't eat enough. Finicky eaters usually do so out of preference, but you should keep in mind that Labradoodles might also refuse to eat because of a medical condition.

Also keep in mind environmental factors. Many Labradoodle owners comment that their dogs eat less during hot weather. This is not unusual. Studies show that, as a general rule, dogs need about 7.5 percent fewer calories with each 10 degree rise in temperature.

Change in diet

One possible cause of finicky eating is a sudden change in diet. Some tips on making diet changes more tolerable:

- Before leaving the breeder, pet store, or Humane Society, find out what type, flavor, and brand of food your Labradoodle has been eating. Acquire some of this food.
- If the food your Labradoodle has been eating is acceptable to you, continue feeding it.
- If you want to switch your Labradoodle to a new food at any time, begin with a day or two of feeding the same food he had before.
- Then mix that food with your chosen brand or flavor for a few days, slowly decreasing the amount of old food and increasing the amount of new. This should take about a week or a little more.
- Do this any time you change foods or your dog may develop gastrointestinal upset.

Making food more palatable

If your Labradoodle doesn't like the new food, hang in there and try to make it more appealing.

- If you've chosen dry food, add a little water to moisten it.
- If you serve a moist food, warm it a little.
- Allow your Labradoodle time to adjust.

If he still won't eat it, you may want to try a new food. This causes finicky behavior.

If he won't eat that, have a talk with your veterinarian. You may be experiencing a complete refusal to eat.

Mix a little wet with the dry to entice. Slowly decrease wet until he's back to only dry.

Scheduling and controlling diet

An indulgent family member rather than your Labradoodle may be the problem. By feeding human treats and food from the table, your Labradoodle's hunger is satisfied with all this people food and it either refuses to eat or nibbles only a few bites of the food it should be eating.

Don't feed your Labradoodle people food and if you feed treats, do so sparingly and reduce the amount of complete and balanced dog food you offer to accommodate the extra calories.

Make sure your Labradoodle isn't eating somewhere else. The garbage can is a common temptation for dogs. Keep garbage out of reach; not only might it reduce your dog's appetite for dog food, it can cause a host of other problems, including diarrhea.

Scheduling specific feeding times throughout the day is beneficial. Your Labradoodle will know when food is coming at will learn to eat at that time.

If none of these tips help, ask your veterinarian to examine your dog for other conditions that may be leading to these eating habits, especially if your dog seems to be unexpectedly losing weight.



Refusal To Eat

Complete refusal to eat can be a sign of a serious problem that will require a veterinarian's attention. But don't rule out that your Labradoodle may just be finicky.

Distinguishing between finicky eating and refusal to eat

Refusal to eat is when your Labradoodle dog completely stops eating the food put before it or eats small amounts only reluctantly.

Finicky eating is often a result of the food options made available to a dog. Your Labradoodle still wants to eat, but it only wants to eat certain things. This can occur when his diet is changed unexpectedly, or when he gets used to certain foods. One example might be a Labradoodle that regularly eats scraps from the table; this dog might eventually refuse dog food because it wants people food.

Finicky eating is a learned behavior and there are certain things you can do to try and address it.

If your Labradoodle refuses to eat

If your Labradoodle simply won't or can't eat, no matter what you try, you must see your veterinarian. This is especially true if your dog starts losing weight. The problem could be anything from sore teeth to serious internal problems, and your veterinarian can diagnose and recommend solutions to the problem.



Sudden Weight Loss

Sudden or unexplained weight loss should be reported to your veterinarian immediately. It can be a sign of a number of issues, some relatively easy to correct, and some quite serious. Don't risk overlooking a potentially serious problem.

Cause of weight loss in a Labradoodle

In very broad terms, weight loss occurs when your Labradoodle is burning more calories than he is consuming. But why this is happening can vary.

- There might be some internal problem that means your dog isn't utilizing the calories he is eating.
- There may be an internal disorder that redirects calories from vital life functions.
- Your dog may not be eating as much, sometimes due to teeth problems that make eating painful.
- Your dog may suddenly be burning more calories. Cold weather makes a dog's body burn calories for warmth, and dogs that are working hard use more calories too.

What to do

Unless the cause is extremely obvious (such as you've started running a great deal with your Labradoodle, but haven't been offering more food), you should consult with your veterinarian. Sudden and unexplained weight loss isn't normal, and you should find the cause before the weight loss causes further problems for your Labradoodle.



Water

Water is the one necessary nutrient not adequately available in a complete and balanced dog food – and it is also one a Labradoodle cannot be healthy without. Owners should have a clean bowl filled with fresh water available to their dogs at all times.

Functions of water

All animals depend on water for life processes. Water is the most important nutrient for survival on a short-term basis, and it is one that is too frequently neglected. Among its functions:

- Water is found inside and outside cells, and is involved in most biochemical reactions within the body.
- Water is essential in helping regulate body temperature.
- Water lubricates body tissues.
- Water is a fluid medium for the blood and lymph systems.

The amount of water a Labradoodle will need depends on the amount of activity he is involved in, the temperature and humidity of the environment, and other factors such as pregnancy and lactation.

Sources of water for Labradoodle dogs

Obviously, most of the water your Labradoodle needs is consumed by drinking it. Some water may also be present in your Labradoodle's food if you feed a canned or semi-moist (chewy) food; however, you should never rely on the water present in food to meet your pet's needs

Providing water

As noted above, plenty of fresh, cool water should be made available at all times. While you might not need to bring water along when you walk around the block, you may want to bring a bottle and a dish to the dog park or when out exercising, especially in warm weather.



Labradoodle Grooming Basics

Proper dog grooming is an important part of Labradoodle care. It not only makes your dog look better, but contributes to his or her physiological and psychological health. Ensuring you have the proper dog grooming supplies will make your dog healthier and your job easier.

Only wool/curly Labradoodles are high maintenance dogs that require daily grooming. The reason why daily grooming is a must is because Labradoodles do not have fur they have fine curly hair that easily becomes matted with knots. If you do not wish to grow your Labradoodle's hair out, and would like it kept cut short, you should leave this job to a professional groomer- a proper grooming table and shears, scissors and blades and a LOT of practice are necessary to do a safe, sound job of it. This dog has a lot of hair, and there are a number of things that must be done to keep your dog healthy and beautiful.

If you brush your Labradoodle every day, and include a bath and shampoo once a month, a trip to the groomer every 3 months will more than suffice. Clean dogs do not matt as fast. Brush and groom him everyday- and if he is in long coat you may have to do this 2 times a day. Puppy coats start to "blow" around 6-8 months old, and then they get their adult hair. During this time, you have to brush, brush, brush, or you will have a matted dog. Blowing of the puppy coat lasts about 6 weeks, and then the shedding becomes less extreme. Most people get their Labradoodle clipped around this time (7-8 months old) because of this.

All the other coat types (fleece and hair) can be brushed every 2-3 days, and can be washed every 4 months.

Coat

For daily care of your wool/curly Labradoodle, you'll need some tools:

- Pin brush- around \$15-\$25; get a good one with no balls on the tips (ball-tips break the hair)
- Metal comb, fine and medium
- Slicker brush curved for brushing undercoat
- Finishing spray or spray conditioner

Get your Labradoodle used to a grooming routine at a young age. Begin by laying your dog down on its side. Lightly spray coat and start brushing with long smooth strokes, start on the underside and work up the side to the back

in layers. Brush each layer gently and work out little knots with your fingers. Be patient and don't rip through knots. If the mat proves to be too large, try using a dog detangler product to ease the knot. You can also use a coat conditioning oil. Pull the mat apart as best you can with your fingers, and use the end of the metal comb to help loosen individual hairs. After you have done one side, brush the other side same way.

Next turn your dog on its back and brush the tummy, paying careful attention to armpits where snarls form. (Have your groomer clip here to avoid such problems later.) Next, while your dog stands, go through the entire coat with metal combs making sure no snarls or knots have been missed, using the medium comb first, then the fine one.

Finish the dog with a light spray, again all over avoid eyes, and gently brush the coat down with the pin brush. The slicker brush can be used on the undercoat and on the feet. Just be sure not brush too hard or you will scratch your dog. A small reward ends the grooming session- praise and a small tidbit for being good.

Nails

Trim your Labradoodle's nails about once per month. You'll need a clipper designed specifically for the kind of companion animal you have. Either a scissor- or guillotine-style clipper can be used. You should also purchase a small bottle of blood-clotting powder.

How to Cut Your Labradoodle's Nails

1. Have your dog sit beside you. Then place one of his or her paws in your hand and gently pull it forward. If your pet dislikes dog grooming, slowly accustom him or her to it by offering treats and praise.
2. Gradually shorten one nail. Be sure to stop before you reach the quick, which is the part of the nail that contains nerves and blood vessels. If you cannot see the quick clearly, stop cutting just behind the point at which the nail begins to curve downward.
3. If you cut into the quick, do not panic. Put some clotting powder on a moist cotton swab and press it firmly against the nail for several seconds.
4. Repeat the process until all of your dog's nails have been trimmed.

5. Do not forget to trim the dewclaw, which is located on the inside of each front leg just above the paw. (Some dogs do not have dewclaws.)

Ears

Ear care is an exceptionally important part of Labradoodle dog grooming because they are prone to ear infections. Ear infections can not only be painful, but lead to permanent hearing loss. The signs of a problem with a dog's ears include redness, constant scratching, head shaking and odor.

How to Clean Your Labradoodle's Ears

1. Check your dog's ears once every week or two as part of your dog grooming routine. The skin inside and on the flaps should be pale pink. If there is a foul odor and/or any red, brown or black skin, have a veterinarian examine your pet's ears.
2. Moisten a cotton ball with warm water or a little mineral oil and use it to clean the opening into the canal and the flaps. Do not probe too deeply into the canal.

Eyes

You will likely need to clean the surrounding eye area of your Labradoodle every once in a while (every few weeks) to keep the area clean.

Simply use warm water and a soft wash cloth. Hold your dog's snout gently, yet firmly in your hand and gently remove any build up of gummy discharge. Do not use soap, or any other product to remove the stain, as you don't want to risk irritating your dog's eyes.

Your dog will probably dislike this cleaning experience, no matter how familiar he is with it. Therefore, be patient, talk to him and give him praise. Finally, be sure to reward him with a treat when he's finished.

Teeth

Labradoodles can get cavities and develop periodontal disease, so their teeth should be cleaned as part of their dog grooming routine.

Here your Labradoodle can do his own dog grooming! Give your dog chews on once or twice a week will go a long way to keeping his teeth clean and healthy.

Otherwise you should clean your dog's teeth with a pet toothpaste regularly. It is best to use a small toothbrush that has soft bristles. Cleanings performed by a veterinarian may also be required.

Bathing

Ensure that bathing forms a regular part of your Labradoodle grooming routine. Bathe your dog once every two months or as often as needed. Be sure to brush him or her before each bath in order to get all of the mats out of his or her coat.

How to Bathe Your Labradoodle

1. Place a rubber mat in your bathtub, or a towel in your sink, for secure footing. Then place a cotton ball in each of your companion animal's ears to prevent water from entering.
2. Rinse your pet with warm water. Use a spray hose if one is available, but be sure to keep the nozzle very close to your companion animal's body. Never spray him or her in the face.
3. Apply a shampoo designed especially for pets in small amounts, working from the head to the tail. Be sure to clean the rectum, between the toes, behind the ears and under the chin. Try to avoid getting shampoo in your companion animal's eyes.
4. Thoroughly rinse your pet with warm water.
5. You may want to apply dog conditioner to help ease the knots. You can also use "coat handler" which is a leave-in-conditioner for dogs and works as a detangler.
6. Dry your dog with a towel and/or hair dryer.



Choose The Right Vet For Your Labradoodle

Choosing the right veterinarian for your Labradoodle is an important decision, because you will want to find someone whom you can trust to diagnose your animal companion should they ever become ill, as well as provide you with the best advice to assist you with treatment options.

After yourself, the most important person in your dog's life is a veterinarian. Take your puppy or dog in for a visit as soon as possible after coming home for the first time. Your veterinarian can check for problems you might miss. And if there is a problem, the sooner treatment starts, the better.

When it comes to selecting your vet, you won't want to base your decision on:

- How friendly he or she may be
- How inexpensive he or she is

All that should concern you is how logically the vet thinks, and how well they respond to your dog's condition, so they can help you, help your dog.

There are two different types of veterinarian care that you can choose for your Labradoodle:

- 1. Allopathic Veterinarian:** This is a type of veterinarian whose philosophies are based on treating your dog's symptoms with either some form of drug, medication or chemical. Some people believe that this style of treatment, only adds more stress on your animal companion's immune system, and may lead to other complications or even negative reactions if the chemical wreaks havoc on the dog's other bodily organs.
- 2. Holistic Veterinarian:** This type of veterinarian believes in using natural elements of healing such as herbs used for medicine, vitamins, minerals, acupuncture, antioxidants, enzymes and homeopathy as ways to treat illnesses in animals if they should ever occur. The idea behind this approach is to prevent illness from occurring, by keeping your dog's immune system strong and healthy

Some believe that the holistic approach is the safer and logical choice, but in the end the approach you pick will depend entirely on your beliefs, and what

you think will work best for your companion. Don't be afraid to ask questions, and find out detailed information about both veterinarian options before making your final decision.

When you look for a veterinarian, consider the following:

- Recommendation of family and friends – often the best indicator of a good veterinarian
- Cleanliness and orderliness of office – a sign of professionalism and good for your Labradoodle's health
- Proximity to your home – you want to be able to visit easily if you have questions
- Office hours that fit your schedule – convenience matters; otherwise you might not go
- Rapport between yourself and the veterinarian – you want to be able to communicate openly about concerns

Also identify the nearest animal hospital. You never know when there might be an emergency.

By building a relationship with a veterinarian, you will know that your Labradoodle is getting care from someone you trust. And by going to the same veterinarian over time, you will be building a medical history for your pet. Building this relationship will have a positive long-term impact on the quality of care your Labradoodle receives throughout life.



You Labradoodles First Visit To The Vet

When should you first take your new Labradoodle to the veterinarian? The short answer is, as soon as possible. And it must not end at one visit. Your puppy will need more veterinary care in the first year of life than at any other time. Not only are there concerns of immediate importance, there is a lot your veterinarian can do and recommend that will help keep your puppy healthy even when he is all grown up

First visit

Ideally, select a veterinarian even before bringing your Labradoodle puppy home. Once your puppy is home, the first meeting of veterinarian and puppy should happen as soon as possible - ideally within 24 hours. In addition to a general check up and examination for parasites, you and the veterinarian should work out a specific schedule of visits and vaccinations at that first meeting.

First three months

In the first three months of your puppy's life, your veterinarian will probably want to meet every three or four weeks for vaccinations. How long this schedule continues varies by location, but going until 16 weeks of age is not unusual.

Three to six months

Rabies vaccinations sometimes are regulated by local laws and often begin between three and six months. Between four and six months, your puppy should be checked again for parasites and your veterinarian may recommend heartworm treatment. Also watch for your puppy's permanent teeth to come in.

Spaying or neutering is recommended between four and six months. The procedure is simple, and males usually feel pretty good in a day. Females may take two or three days. This is an important decision. With the number of unplanned dogs born every year, having your puppy sterilized is the responsible thing to do.

Six months to a year

After six months, the veterinarian visits usually taper off. There are boosters at about one year, and these will be repeated on a regular basis, following your veterinarian's recommendation. In general, it is a good idea for adult Labradoodles to make at least one visit a year to maintain the healthy start they got as puppies.

Perhaps the most loving, responsible thing you can do for your Labradoodle is to see that he receives timely health care from a qualified veterinarian. His life depends on it.



Vaccinating Your Labradoodle

Just like humans, puppies receive vaccines to protect them against disease according and viruses to the schedule provided by your veterinarian. Although only your veterinarian can tell you how many visits are needed and when, expect several in the first year of your dog's life and annual boosters after that.

If you have adopted an adult Labradoodle and don't know if its shots are current, see your veterinarian about the best course of action.

A vaccine works by introducing your Labradoodle's immune system to a small strain of a particular virus, without actually giving the animal the disease. This allows your dog the chance to become familiar with the virus, allowing them the chance to fight it off. Therefore, the next time your Labradoodle is introduced to the same virus, his immune system will be able to quickly fight off the foreign bacteria with ease.

Your veterinarian may provide routine vaccinations for canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus, coronavirus, parainfluenza, Bordetella, Lyme disease and rabies. Remember, most vaccines must be given over a period of time and require multiple veterinary visits. So check with your veterinarian and get ready for a happy, rewarding friendship with your Labradoodle.

Canine Distemper

A highly contagious viral disease that affects a dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems. It can be spread through the air or by contact with an infected animal, its feces or urine and can be fatal. Because a puppy's natural immunity may wear off before he is vaccinated, reduce risk of exposure by limiting contact with unfamiliar dogs until the vaccination series is completed.

Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, nose and eye discharge, fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea and seizures.

Infectious Canine Hepatitis

This viral disease, also know as adenovirus, is spread by contact with infected animals, their feces, urine or saliva. It affects the liver, kidneys and cells lining the blood vessels.

Symptoms include high fever, thirst, inflammation of nose or mouth, diarrhea, abdominal pain and tenderness, liver damage, loss of appetite, hemorrhage and depression.

Leptospirosis

An extremely contagious bacterial disease that spreads through contact with nasal secretions, urine or saliva of infected animals. Early signs are not apparent, so infection can go undetected. Recovered animals can continue spreading the disease, which can also affect humans.

Leptospirosis may produce inflamed kidneys, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite and listlessness. Liver damage can also occur. Note that early signs of the disease may not be readily apparent.

Parvovirus

This viral infection is a common, deadly viral infection and usually strikes puppies. It is spread by contact with and infected dog's blood, feces or vomit

Symptoms include severe diarrhea, fever, vomiting, loss of appetite and dehydration.

Parinfluenza

A highly infectious virus that can be one of the causes of "kennel cough." It spreads quickly among dogs kept in close quarters and can seriously damage the respiratory system or even result in death.

Symptoms include a dry, hacking cough, loss of appetite, depression and runny nose and eyes.

Rabies

This is an infection of the central nervous system that results in paralysis and death. Rabies is always fatal. It is usually transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Rabies is a serious public health threat, so it is essential to vaccinate your dog. Most states have laws requiring vaccination.

A stage of high excitability includes unprovoked biting and sensitivity to noise. There is also a stage of paralysis, cramps and swallowing difficulties.

Coronavirus

A highly contagious viral infection of the gastrointestinal tract. Again, this disease is spread through contact with infected blood, feces or vomit.

Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, high fever and dehydration.

Bordetella

This is an airborne bacterial infection involved in "kennel cough." Dogs may catch this when exposed to other dogs in kennels, dog shows and field trials.

Symptoms include persistent coughing, sneezing and retching accompanied by nasal discharge. It also increases your dog's susceptibility to other upper respiratory infections.

Lyme Disease

This is a tick-borne disease that affects both dogs and humans.

It can exhibit itself as arthritis with the sudden onset of severe pain and lameness, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite and depression.

Newborn Labradoodle puppies receive disease-fighting antibodies from their mother's milk. These antibodies normally last only six to sixteen weeks, however. After that, your puppy needs vaccinations to help protect him from disease.

Some Labradoodles may have a reaction to a vaccine, but these reactions are rarely dangerous. If your Labradoodle experiences loss of appetite or excessively sleeps for *more* than 48 hours after a vaccination, you should consult your vet.

If your Labradoodle has symptoms of swelling, vomiting or hives, their reaction is stronger, but none life-threatening. Simply have them examined by the vet, and inform the vet of possible allergic reactions before the next vaccination, so he or she can take precautions to lessen the stress on your dog.

Even if your Labradoodle has a reaction, you should still have him or her regularly vaccinated, as small reactions pale in comparison to contracting a fatal virus.

Labradoodles should begin receiving vaccinations when they are puppies, and are over 3 months of age. Your vet will inform you of the vaccinations most needed for your dog, so don't be afraid to ask questions, and learn all about the various diseases that threaten the life of your furry loved one, so you can keep them well protected.



Pet Health Insurance

One of the best ways to protect yourself financially if your Labradoodle suffers from any future illnesses that require expensive treatments is to obtain pet health insurance.

If you are interested in obtaining pet health insurance for your Labradoodle, you will find that there are many excellent insurance companies such as Pet Assure, Veterinary Pet Insurance and Premier Pet Insurance that can provide coverage for your dog if he or she should ever become seriously ill.

Of course there are different pet health insurance plans for you to consider, so you can choose the one that you feel most comfortable with and can afford.

However, you should keep in mind, that just like most insurance policies, pet health insurance will not cover any pre-existing conditions in your Labradoodle. That being the case, if pet health insurance is something you want for you dog, you should sign up for it as soon as possible, so both you and your pal can truly benefit from it.



How To Breed Labradoodles

When you adopt your Labradoodle puppy, you will need to decide whether or not you wish to neuter your dog or keep him or her available for breeding.

If you choose to Breed Labradoodles, you should first consult your veterinarian to hear his or her advice, and also learn everything there is to know about breeding so you know exactly what you are getting into, what to expect, and how you can keep both the mother and her puppies safe and healthy.

The first aspect you need to understand is that breeding can be frustrating, tedious, unnerving and even distressing because it is not uncommon for puppies to be stillborn, or for the mother to have complications.

Female Labradoodles In Heat

Your female Labradoodle will experience estrus - commonly known as heat - usually every 6 to 8 months, which will last for approximately three weeks.

You will recognize the signs of heat in your dog, as she will experience vaginal bleeding for 10 to 14 days after the end of the first week she has been in heat. You will also find that her vulva is swollen, and most likely every male dog on your street will be showing up on your doorstep.

How To Breed Successfully

It has been estimated that the best time for breeding for the female is during the 10th to the 14th day of heat. Once the day has arrived she should be taken to the home of the male, as it appears males are more successful when they are able to breed in surroundings that are familiar to them.

You will also find that to determine if your female Labradoodle is ready for breeding, there are tests that can be conducted to either examine her vaginal cells, or the new and more accurate test that finds changes of progesterone level in her blood. Be advised that these tests can be quite expensive.

Caring For Your Pregnant Labradoodle

A female dog will usually remain pregnant for 60 - 67 days; therefore, after breeding has been complete, you will need to begin counting and preparing yourself for the birth.

After three weeks from the breeding day, take your female dog to the vet so that the vet can verify if your Labradoodle is pregnant. If she is pregnant, it is time to place her on a puppy formulation of a recommended premium brand of food, which she should eat throughout her pregnancy and nursing, as it provides extra nutrients to both the mother and her puppies.

You will notice that your pregnant Labradoodle will grow a tremendous appetite, and will ingest about 1 and a half the amount of food she ate before she was pregnant. Feed her more times a day; remember she's not just eating for one anymore, and she needs her strength for whelping.

You may also notice that your female Labradoodle will become more loving and probably demand more attention from you. She will want to be close to you, especially as whelping draws near.

Preparing For Whelping

Before the time of whelping occurs, you will need to procure a proper whelping box that is large enough for your dog to comfortably move around in, and have sides that are low enough that she can easily see out of, and for you to provide her with assistance if needed.

The box bottom should be layered and covered with many newspapers that will help to absorb the fluids from birth, which allows you to remove any top soiled newspaper layers without overly disrupting the mother and her puppies. These newspapers also give the mother an ideal hiding place.

The whelping box should be hid in a closet or other enclosed area until whelping occurs.

Labor And Delivery

You will know when it is almost time for your Labradoodle to give birth, as her temperament will change almost 24 hours before Labradoodle. She will probably act nervous and frequently pant, as well as refrain from eating any food.

Her rectal temperature should be under 100°F (37.8 °C) and will most likely remain consistent up until delivery.

For the most part, puppies that have larger and rounder heads will take longer to deliver than those with smaller heads. For smaller head dogs, successful deliveries with no complications can take no more than two hours, but for bigger head dogs, it is not uncommon for the mother to wait an hour between each delivery. However, regardless of the breed of dog, if after her first two puppies have been born, and three or more hours have passed without the delivery of another puppy, you should contact your vet.

When a puppy becomes visible, it should only take a few contractions to push the puppy free from the birth canal, making it approximately 10 minutes for a puppy to be born after it is visible.

About 40% of puppies are born headfirst, so in many cases it is not uncommon for the puppy to come out tail first. If the puppy is tail first, keep a close watch and be prepared to offer assistance.

When the puppy is born the mother should immediately begin to lick the sack (placenta) that the puppy is incased in. Her tongue will rip the sack exposing the mouth, nose and face of the puppy which she will continue to lick clean, and then use to toss about the puppy. The vigorous cleaning provided by the mother is what stimulates circulation and breathing within the puppy. The mother will then chew to sever the umbilical cord and eat the placenta. Both of these proceedings are normal.

After 24 hours of the successful delivery, the mother Labradoodle and her puppies should be examined by the Vet to ensure that everything is fine.

You should also expect the mother to have vaginal blood discharge for up to 7 days after whelping, but any longer than that, you should have her tested for possible problems.

If whelping does not occur smoothly or successfully, as described above, your Labradoodle mother could be experiencing many complications. Therefore, make sure you consult the advice of your vet, other successful breeders, and read plenty of information on the art of breeding before attempting it.

In addition, keep in mind If you don't choose to breed or neuter your dog, you should know that the female dog's reproductive system can shorten her life span by making her more susceptible to serious health problems, and the male's reproductive system can make him more aggressive, occasionally cause him to ignore commands, claim your items, or even attack other male dogs.

Therefore, make sure you choose the best choice for both you and your dogs before you jump headfirst into breeding.



How to Keep Your Labradoodle Healthy

Your Labradoodle will rely on you to keep him in good health. A proper diet, regular exercise and grooming, and routine check-ups at the veterinarian will help keep your dog in top form.

It's also important for you to get to know your Labradoodle's habits - eating, drinking, sleeping, and so forth - since sometimes a variation in those habits can be an indication that he isn't feeling well.

A good pet care plan can help with the cost of providing quality healthcare throughout your dog's life. As vet bills for dog health care in later years can be very expensive.

If your Labradoodle does become ill then it is important to give him the best medication.

Skin

Healthy skin is flexible and smooth, without scabs, growths, white flakes, or red areas. It ranges in color from pale pink to brown or black depending on the breed. Spotted skin is normal, whether your dog has a spotted or solid coat.

Check your Labradoodle for fleas, ticks, lice, or other external parasites. To do this, blow gently on your dog's stomach or brush hair backward in a few places to see if any small specks scurry away or if ticks are clinging to the skin. Black "dirt" on your dog's skin or bedding may be a sign of flea droppings.

In addition, to keep your dog's skin from drying out and in order to maintain health, do not bathe your Labradoodle more than once a month. However, if bathing needs to be done more frequently, consult your vet about supplements and special aloe shampoos and conditions to help keep oil within the skin to avoid drying out.

Coat

A healthy coat, whether short or long, is glossy and pliable, without dandruff, bald spots, or excessive oiliness.

Eyes

Bright and shiny eyes are an excellent sign of good dog health. Mucus and watery tears are normal but should be minimal and clear. The pink lining of the eyelids should not be inflamed, swollen, or have a yellow discharge.

The whites of your Labradoodle's eyes should not be yellowish. Eyelashes should not rub the eyeball.

Ears

The skin inside your dog's ears should be light pink and clean. There should be some yellow or brownish wax, but a large amount of wax or crust is abnormal. Poor dog health is shown by redness or swelling inside the ear. Your Labradoodle shouldn't scratch his ears or shake his head frequently.

Nose

Most people assume that a shiny wet nose is a sign. A dog's nose is usually cool and moist. It can be black, pink, or self-colored (the same color as the coat), depending on the breed. Nasal discharge should be clear, never yellowish, thick, bubbly, or foul smelling. A cool, wet nose does not necessarily mean good Labradoodle health, and a dry, warm nose doesn't necessarily mean he's sick.

Mouth, teeth and gums

Healthy gums are important for Labradoodle health. They should be firm and pink, black, or spotted, just like your dog's skin. Young dogs have smooth white teeth that tend to darken with age. Puppies have 23 baby teeth and adults have around 42 permanent teeth, depending on the breed. As adult teeth come in, they push baby teeth out of the mouth.

To check your Labradoodle's mouth, talk to him gently, then put your hand over the muzzle and lift up the sides of his mouth. Check that adult teeth are coming in as they should, and not being crowded by baby teeth. Make sure the gums are healthy and the breath is not foul-smelling. Look for soft white matter or hard white, yellow, or brown matter. This is plaque or tartar and should be brushed away to keep your dog in good health.

Mouth infections can lead to serious problems in the gums and lead to poor dog health in other parts of the body, including the heart, so it's important to give your dog's teeth and mouth special attention.

Temperature

A Labradoodle's normal temperature is 101 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit (38.3 to 39.2 degrees Celsius). Taking a dog's temperature will tell you a lot about your dog's health.

To take your dog's temperature, you'll need a rectal thermometer. Put some petroleum jelly on the bulb of the thermometer. Ask someone to hold your dog's head while you lift his tail and insert the thermometer about an inch or so into the rectum. Do not let go of the thermometer. Hold it in until the temperature is read (about 3 minutes for a mercury thermometer), and then remove gently.

Heartbeat and pulse

The heart beat of Labradoodle in good health will be from 60 to 130 times a minute depending on whether they are resting or playing. Puppies have faster speeds, up to 220 beats per minute

To check your Labradoodle's heartbeat, place your fingers over the left side of the chest, where you can feel the strongest beat.

To check the pulse, which is the same speed as the heartbeat, press gently on the inside of the top of the hind leg. There is an artery there and the skin is thin, so it's easy to feel the pulse.

Wee & poo!

Urine is a great indicator of a good health, and should be clear yellow. Most adult Labradoodles have one or two bowel movements a day. Stools should be brown and firm. You can also check for worms. Runny, watery, or bloody stools, straining, or too much or too little urination warrant a call to the vet.

Weight

A healthy Labradoodle's weight is the result of the balance between diet and exercise. If he is getting enough nutritious food and exercise but still seems over- or underweight, he may have a health problem.

Don't let your Labradoodle get fat by giving him too many between-meal snacks; obese dogs often develop serious health problems. The best way to tell if your dog is overweight is to feel his rib-cage area. You should be able to feel the ribs below the surface of the skin without much padding.

Labradoodle Savvy

If you let your dog get over weight or feed him the wrong thing then he will certainly suffer from poor dog health at some time.



10 tips for a Healthy Labradoodle

1. Feed him a balanced diet.
2. Give an occasional yogurt treat
3. Ask your vet about giving Labradoodles calcium tablets as they could have some problems later on in life!
4. Keep him comfortable so his immune system can remain strong.
5. Labradoodles that are shorthaired are sensitive to extreme elements of the weather and thus must be kept a housedog.
6. Give Labradoodles lots of exercise and regularly. Remember that he is a big and strong breed and requires physical outlets for his boundless energy and high play/prey drive.
7. Walk them two times a day or have play sessions. Provide plenty of space for them to bounce around. You want to keep their spirit up and not break it or they won't be your dogs you fall in love with in the first place. Healthy and happy Labradoodles are a joy to live with.
8. Make a breeder your friend.
Keep in touch with the breeder who sold you the Labradoodle. The breeder can advise you about care and health matters that are unique to the breed. Any Labradoodle breeder, for that matter, can be an invaluable ally to you throughout your Labradoodle's life.
9. Guard your Labradoodle from fleas.
Your Labradoodle has fleas if you find black specks in the fur or fleabite marks on the skin. A tip given by an owner is to give your Labradoodle garlic daily to prevent fleas.

Labradoodles catch fleas from other animals. It is an every day problem that, at some time or another, you can expect to encounter in your Labradoodle. The fleas only go to the Labradoodle to feed on its blood. Fleas mostly live and multiply in your home. The comfortable living - central heating, double-glazing and, best of all, the fitted carpet – we create for ourselves and our Labradoodles also work best for the fleas.
10. De-worm your puppy every month and your adult Labradoodle, every six months.



Taking Care of Your Sick Labradoodle

Labradoodle illnesses can happen at any time. Believe it or not, some dogs are more susceptible to certain dog illnesses than others.

Symptoms of dog illnesses

Symptoms of dog diseases can vary from poor coat condition to bleeding. You may be able to treat minor complaints yourself but should your dog exhibit any of the symptoms then you must take him to a vet immediately.

- Bleeding from the nose, mouth, rectum, genitalia
- Not eating or eating much less than normal for more than 1 day
- Drinking excessively
- Lethargy.
- Pain when you touch or move the animal
- Inability to urinate or defecate or showing signs of stress when attempting these activities

A veterinarian should always be contacted whenever your dog is not acting normally or its health is in question.

When you go to visit your veterinarian, you might want to ask him or her about the common dog illnesses for your particular breed of dog. You need to be prepared for what's ahead and you want to provide your dog with as much immunity to these diseases as possible.

The best way to ensure you can provide for your dog when he is ill is to take out pet insurance. Vet bills can be very costly and no one wants to be in a position where they can't afford to look after dog when he really needs care.

Your vet will likely give your dog the necessary shots to keep it healthy for many of these potential illnesses, but you have a right and a need as a responsible pet owner to know what may lie ahead.

In addition, knowing what dog illnesses are common in particular breeds can help you and your vet determine what a particular illness might be. If you know what the symptoms are for the illnesses that are most common in your breed of dog, you can better diagnose your pet and catch the illness before it becomes severe. Knowing the common dog diseases will help you keep your dog healthy.

Here are some common Labradoodle illnesses. Some of these illnesses are found mainly when your dog reaches an older age; others of these illnesses can occur at any point throughout your Labradoodle's life.

Note: Labradoodles are generally healthier than both the Poodle and Labrador breeds. However, remember to find out about the hereditary and common health conditions that affect the Labrador Retriever and Poodle, as these could also be a potential problem for the Labradoodle.

Labradoodles, unfortunately, are prone to several potential health problems like

- skin allergy
- food allergy
- cancer
- hip dysphasia
- diabetes
- heart ailments
- Bloat
- fleas
- worms

Knowing what they are will help you to better monitor your pet's health and to gather the pertinent information, in case of an illness, that would assist your veterinarian to administer the correct diagnosis and treatment. Below are some common afflictions of Labradoodles.



Your Labradoodle And The Weather

No matter where you live, the weather can pose a danger to your Labradoodle at one time or another. Know what the risks are and how to avert them.

Hot weather

Heat and humidity – and conditions that come with them – can pose a risk to dogs.

Make sure your Labradoodle has shade when outside.

Labradoodle Savvy

Supply plenty of cool water in a clean bowl.

Make your Labradoodle rest between periods of exercise.

Avoid excessive exercise your Labradoodle during hot days or warm, humid nights. The best time to exercise dogs is either early in the morning before sunrise or late in the evening after the sun goes down.

Watch for muscle weakness, heavy panting, dry skin, rapid heartbeat and/or collapse. It can mean heatstroke. Get to shade, give small amounts of water, immerse your dog in cool water if possible and get to your veterinarian.

In some areas, summer means mosquitoes and the risk of heartworm. See your veterinarian for preventative treatment.

The problem of fleas and ticks intensifies during summer months.

Hot pavement, sticky tar or gravel may cause footpad problems. To remove tar from footpads, rub them with petroleum jelly and then gently wash with mild soap and water and rinse thoroughly.

Never leave your Labradoodle confined in a car or any other poorly ventilated enclosure; it can be fatal to your dog.

Cold weather

Remove salt, ice and packed snow from your Labradoodle's paws.

Feed your Labradoodle extra food if he spends time outside. It takes energy to keep warm.

Winter may mean less exercise outside, which could mean weight gain. Watch your dog's body condition and adjust feeding amounts as needed.

If your Labradoodle is outside, let him run around. It keeps the blood flowing.

You may find your indoor Labradoodle experiencing dry skin and shedding. This is usually the result of low humidity. Frequent brushing helps remove dead hairs, skin and stimulates oil glands.

Dampness is a winter danger. Dry your pet if he gets wet and do all you can to keep him dry.

Labradoodle Savvy

Keep fireplaces screened and train pets to keep a safe distance; cinders and fumes can cause problems

If your Labradoodle suffers from frostbite, do not rub the skin. Get your dog in a warm place. Apply warm moist towels to frostbitten areas. Change them until the area becomes flushed. Severe frostbite damages paws and ear tips so see your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Storms

Whether it's a winter or summer storm, your pet should not be left outside. Dangers include:

Flying debris that can strike and injure your pet.

Excessive cold and wet that leave your dog miserable and weakened.

Lightning can pose the same risks to dogs that it can to humans.

Winter winds and snow can lead to frostbite, chapping and hypothermia.

Labradoodles have natural coats, but they aren't invincible. If you wouldn't want to stay out in the weather, your dog shouldn't either.



Labradoodles And Holidays

Holidays are a lot of fun for people and they can be for Labradoodles, too. But they can also carry some risks. When you and yours get together, include your companion in the holidays in a way that is sensible, and provide supervision and forethought.

Food

Many gatherings involve wonderful meals. Your family and guests may be tempted to slip your dog a little food as a holiday treat. Avoid this and ask people not to give handouts. They could upset your Labradoodle's stomach; poultry may include bones; and if your dog becomes accustomed to treats, you may end up with a dog that begs at the table year-round.

Decorations

Some Labradoodles are notorious for chewing. Yarn, tinsel, ribbons and other "chewables" are attractive to a playful dog and may cause internal damage if

swallowed. If you cannot supervise your Labradoodle puppy or dog, keep him confined in a safe area.

Candy

Labradoodles, like people, may be tempted by holiday goodies. Allowing them to have holiday treats and sweets can lead to digestive upsets. In the case of chocolate goodies, beware. Chocolate contains theobromine, which is toxic to dogs.

Excitement

Please remember that the holidays can be stressful for Labradoodles. More people, more noise and changes in their daily schedule may frighten or confuse them. Securing your pet in a quiet area during a holiday party can be easier for your Labradoodle and for you.

Holidays like Halloween include the extra excitement of lots of visitors, strange sights and sounds, and candy everywhere. If your Labradoodle is timid by nature, new people are frightening enough without all those noisemakers and funny costumes. If your Labradoodle is protective of you, all those people ringing your doorbell is certain to stress him as he's trying so hard to protect you and can't understand why you keep telling him it's okay. If your Labradoodle is friendly or curious, he could easily make a quick exit through that constantly opening door. Keep your dog on a leash or in a crate if you have concerns.

New Labradoodles as gifts

Although a new Labradoodle puppy or dog on a holiday would be a wonderful surprise, it can be stressful for the dog, causing him to become over-excited and confused. This confusion may create problems in getting your new Labradoodle off to a good start. You may not have adequate time to begin housetraining your dog immediately and help him adjust to his new surroundings. Both time and patience are needed to establish a routine for a new Labradoodle.

If possible, pick up your new Labradoodle no later than the weekend before the holiday. This will allow time to become accustomed to his new home and family before the hustle and bustle of the holiday. If this is not possible, or if the days prior to the holiday promise to be hectic, try to arrange to pick up your new Labradoodle after the holidays when household activities are calmer.



Labradoodle Travel

If you are planning to travel with your Labradoodle, you should start by asking yourself if it makes sense to bring your canine companion. Many dogs love to travel, and many more can tolerate it, but flying your Labradoodle across the country just to have him stay in his crate once you get there isn't fair to either of you.

Before you travel

If you decide it does make sense to bring your dog along, there are preliminary preparations to make.

- Contact your destination and make sure your dog is welcome where you are staying.
- Go to your veterinarian and make sure all your dog's vaccinations are up to date.
- Ask your veterinarian to make sure your dog is in good enough health to travel.
- See if there are any particular health concerns (i.e. insects, cold, heat) at your destination. Take necessary precautions.

Packing for your trip

- Take health and rabies certificates, which are needed when crossing some borders.
- Bring a recent color photo of your dog to help identify him if lost.
- Pack bowls, leash, toys, crate, medicines and grooming equipment.
- You may want to take food if traveling by car or if you aren't sure where to get food at your destination. Sudden diet changes can lead to digestive upsets and spoil the trip for you and your Labradoodle.
- Make sure your Labradoodle is wearing ID tags, and preferably carrying contact info for you at your destination.

Traveling by car

- It's best to have a crate or car carrier in the back. Don't put it in direct sunlight.
- If your Labradoodle is out of the crate, make sure he's buckled up. Special harnesses that connect to the seat belt are available. Don't use a leash – in a sudden stop, this could cause serious injury.
- Don't put your Labradoodle in the back of a truck.
- Do not feed your Labradoodle for at least three hours before leaving on a trip.
- During stops, provide fresh drinking water for your Labradoodle. You may also reward him with a dog snack for being a good traveler.
- Feed your Labradoodle shortly after you arrive at your destination or when you have stopped for the day.
- Always put your Labradoodle on a leash before letting him out of the car.
- **Never leave your Labradoodle in a closed car on a hot day. The heat and insufficient air circulation can quickly lead to heat stress and even death.**

Traveling by air

- Try to avoid peak travel periods when delays and stopovers are longer, especially in very hot or very cold weather.
- Plan a trip with as few stops and transfers as possible.
- Make hotel, resort and airline reservations for your Labradoodle well in advance.
- Some airlines allow cats and small dogs to travel (generally for an additional charge) with their owner if the carrier fits under the passenger seat. Not likely with a Labradoodle!! Otherwise, rent or purchase a carrier or crate which meets airline regulations and affix

Labradoodle Savvy

a LIVE ANIMAL sticker. Mark it with your name and address and the name of a person who can be contacted about your Labradoodle at your destination if necessary. Put your dog's name in a clear place so that everyone passing can use it and help him feel more at ease.

- Put a cushion or blanket on the crate floor. Attach a water bowl to the crate door. The bowl should be deep, but not too full of water to avoid spilling.
- On the day of the flight, take your Labradoodle for a long walk before leaving for the airport.
- At the end of the trip, pick up your Labradoodle promptly.
- Be prepared for your Labradoodle to spend time in quarantine at foreign destinations. Ask your travel agent or the consul of the country you plan to visit about quarantines.

At your destination

At your vacation site, observe all regulations regarding dogs. Confine your Labradoodle in a carrier or restricted space when leaving it alone. Your consideration will help keep dogs welcome as guests.



Common Labradoodle Illnesses

Dog Worms and How to Cure Them

Every single Labradoodle in the world is susceptible to dog worms (internal parasites). From the eerily fatal Heartworm, carried by mosquitoes, to the relatively benign Roundworm, all dogs should undergo regular fecal exams, and parasite prevention.

It important to know about the possible dog worms that can affect your pet because you can catch them too. As you interact with your dog, you are susceptible, as are any children in your home.

Worms are another everyday problem in Labradoodles but the puppy is more likely to get sick from worms than the grown up Labradoodle. The sick one would lose weight and become weak, suffer from upset stomach, poor growth, listlessness or even lung trouble. Worms may impede your puppy's growth and cause him to have a potbelly or be thin and have a shoddy-looking coat.

Your grown Labradoodle may not be showing any sign of worms but he could spread them more than the sick puppy, through large amount of larvae or eggs passed out in the feces. Released into the surrounding, these larvae and eggs could infect other animals and even children.

In more serious cases, your dog will catch cough, pneumonia and develop lung problems.

The most common dog worms

There are different types of worms that infect dogs such as tapeworm, roundworm, ringworm and heartworm.

Roundworm

The most common internal parasite, roundworms are especially prevalent in puppies. Puppies are often infested in utero, from a roundworm infested mother.

The roundworms (toxocara) live and produce hundreds of eggs in the intestine.

Labradoodle Savvy

They cause digestive upset in puppies, poor growth, and thin or out-of-conditioned coat.

The infected puppies may become listless, have a potbelly or tucked in appearance.

Once the roundworms migrated from the gut to the lungs, your Labradoodle can suffer lung damage, cough and pneumonia.

The roundworm eggs in your dog droppings get passed out and about.

These are very hardy eggs, resistant to heat and cold, and can survive up to 7 years in the soil. The eggs can pass on to children through ingestion and cause them to fall sick as well.

As precautions, you can toilet train your Labradoodle puppy to use a place where you can easily clean up and dispose of the droppings into the sewer. Have your children wash their hands every time after they handle the puppies and discourage your puppies from licking people hands or faces.

Heartworm

Heartworms, left untreated, will be fatal. These deadly dog worms are spread by mosquitoes, and take up residence inside the muscles of the heart. Prevention is very much recommended.

Whipworm

Whipworms are long, whip-shaped dog worms that take up residence in your dog's colon. Eggs are shed and diagnosis can be made three months later through a veterinarian fecal exam. Weight loss, anemia, and fresh blood in the stool are signs of a heavy infestation.

Hookworm

Hookworms are minuscule (12 to 15 mm) intestinal worms that hook onto the intestinal wall and consume copious amounts of blood. A hookworm infestation can kill a puppy before the eggs are ever discovered in a fecal exam. It is extremely important to test all dogs on a regular basis, as hookworms are not only very contagious to other pets, but also to humans.

Tapeworm

The most common dog tapeworm is transmitted through fleas. The most common sign of infestation is discovering the egg sacks around the anus. Egg sacks look grains of rice, that may or may not be moving. Treatment is accomplished by a prescription from your veterinarian. Due to the nature of tapeworms, regular de-worming medication will not help.

As part of the tapeworm's life cycle occurs in the flea as the host if your Labradoodle has tapeworms, it has fleas too and the treatments for both are usually prescribed together by the vet.

The tapeworms have a flat, segmented body. You see them as single segments or chains that resemble segments of rice in the droppings of infected canine.

Common signs of dog worms

Some of the common signs of worm infections are listed below, but these may also be symptoms of other illnesses. When ever your pet is acting ill, we always recommend an examination of your pet and an analysis of a fecal sample.

- A change in your dog's appetite
- A distended abdomen in puppies
- Coughing or hiccupping resulting from the coughing up of worm larvae emerging from the lungs
- Weight loss
- Weakness
- A dull coat
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Observing the worms-either round worm, which looks like spaghetti, or tapeworm segments that look like grains of rice in the stool or on the fur
- Exercise intolerance, due to heartworm

Steps to prevent dog worms in your Labradoodle

Regular veterinary check-ups and fecal exams are an important part of responsible dog ownership, and the only way to ensure your best friend stays parasite free (and you too!).

De-worm your Labradoodle puppy every month and your grown Labradoodle, every 6 months.

Have your veterinarian screen your dog for worms twice a year - and more often if your dog is at high risk of a worm infection.

Examples of high risk Labradoodles are those animals living in crowded urban areas, show pets, hunting dogs, and multiple pet households. Worm your dogs regularly.

Control fleas, which can carry certain tapeworms. These tapeworms can be transmitted to dogs or people who accidentally swallow an infected flea.

Prevent your dog from eating animal carcasses, such as rabbits and rodents, which may contain immature tape worms that will mature in your dog

Maintain good hygiene. For instance, whipworm and roundworm eggs dropped to the soil in your dog's feces can remain infectious for years, while hook worm larvae can accumulate in the earth of a dog run. All can reinfect your Labradoodle. Rapid removal of feces is important. Pave over your dog run. This is much safer than having a soil or gravel surface in which worms can survive.



Alapechia

Alopechia is the total or partial lack of hair on any area of the skin where hair should normally be. This hair loss disorder may be the cause of many things such as disease, worms, fleas, mites, self-trauma (chewing or scratching), or the inability to grow back hair after normal hair loss. Dogs with severe Alopecia are more susceptible to the elements.

Treatment for alopecia is determined by your vet, and will differ for each dog, depending on what the underlying cause is.



Flea Infected Labradoodles

Flea-infected Labradoodles can develop skin diseases especially those allergic to fleas.

Black specs in the fur and bite marks on the skin tell if your Labradoodle has them. To check further, spread some newspapers and place your Labradoodle on top. Brush him and look for the black specs falling off.

Fleas live up to 6 weeks, feeding on blood and during that time would have laid hundreds of eggs that mostly land on your Labradoodle's bedding, carpets and other favorable nests around your home.

The eggs hatch into larvae that seek nice, dark places while feeding on flea's droppings, dust, human shed skin, dandruff and other such tasty morsels.

The larvae turn into hardy pupae that could survive for months before changing into adult fleas.

Fleas are host to tapeworms. Both problems are likely to occur together in your Labradoodle and, therefore, the treatments are also usually given together by the vet.

A bit of garlic a day may keep the fleas away from your Labradoodle.

Dog flea control: Finding and curing fleas

Effective dog flea control requires the three P's! Pets, Premise and Persistence

1. Pets - control of fleas on your dog
2. Premise - control of dog fleas in your environment
3. Persistence – controlling dog fleas is an ongoing battle.

Environmental dog flea control is probably the more important of the two. Adult dog fleas on your dog account for as little as 5% of the total flea population. Dog fleas can be shared by cats and dogs, so if you have a cat, it must also be treated.

Dog fleas feeding on your dog can cause several problems:

- Itching and scratching at the flea bite—in most dogs, the itching is mild and temporary
- Some Labradoodles become allergic to flea saliva and develop severe itching, hair loss, and skin damage from scratching and biting at the site. If left untreated a skin infection can develop
- Tapeworm infestation—dog fleas are an essential part of the tapeworm's life cycle ? your dog is infested with tapeworms when it swallows a flea that contains immature tapeworm stages
- Anemia—loss of red blood cells. This occurs only with severe flea infestations, and usually only in young or sick animals

Finding dog fleas on your Labradoodle

It is easy to tell when your Labradoodle is heavily infested with dog fleas. You can see the fleas crawling over your dog's skin and through the hair.

However, if your dog has only a light infestation, you may not see any fleas unless you look for them. A common place to see fleas is on your dog's belly and the inside of the thighs, where the hair is thin or the skin is bare. Another place to look for dog fleas is in the dense hair over your dog's rump, especially near the base of the tail. Part the hair and inspect the skin for either fleas or flea dirt.

Flea dirt is actually flea droppings. It looks like black grains of sand or cracked pepper on your dog's skin. If you place a few particles of flea dirt on a white surface (e.g. a piece of paper) and wet them, you will see a reddish brown stain form. This is because droppings from dog fleas contain digested blood from the flea's blood meal. You may also notice tiny areas of dried blood on your dog's bedding from moistened flea dirt that has since dried.

Dog flea control

There are many excellent products that if used appropriately are excellent for dog flea control on your pet.

There are numerous products that will kill adult dog fleas on your dog. However, they vary in the duration of their effects:

Flea shampoos, sprays, and powders

Most will kill any dog fleas at the time of application, but they have no lasting effect.

Your dog may have more fleas within 24 hours of being treated

Some of the newer sprays can be safely used every day, if necessary

Flea rinses (dips)

May provide effective dog flea control for 4–5 days, depending on the product ? the rinse is applied after your dog has been shampooed; it is left to dry on your dog's coat

Sprays containing flea growth regulators

Depending on the product, these sprays are usually applied weekly. The growth regulators help break the flea's life cycle for more effective dog flea control.

Flea collars

Can be give effective dog flea control for a couple of weeks. Flea collars are not very effective in warm, humid climates (environments that are ideal for immature flea development)

Some dogs are sensitive to flea collars and develop skin irritation under the collar. If this happens, you should remove the collar and use another method of flea control

Spot on products

Advantage® and Frontline® are two brand name products that are applied to a small area of your dog's skin; they effectively kill fleas for at least a month.

They kill the adult dog fleas, usually before the flea has had a chance to bite your dog. Be sure to select the appropriate package for your dog's body weight

Program®

A tablet that sterilizes any eggs laid by the fleas that feed on your dog. You must give your dog the tablet once a month for effective dog flea control. This drug does not kill the adult dog fleas on your pet, but it does break the flea life cycle by preventing hatching of the next generation of flea eggs Consult your veterinarian for a recommendation on what would work best for your pet.

Manage your environment

Dog flea control in your pet's environment is fairly simple for indoor dogs, especially if you have no other pets that regularly go outside. It is impossible to rid the outside environment of all fleas. Dog flea control in pets that regularly go outside or live outside can be more difficult.

Unless you have strictly indoor pets, environmental dog flea control must target both your house and your yard:

House

Use a fogger or long-lasting spray to kill any adult and larval fleas

If you have a particularly bad problem with dog fleas, it is often worth having a professional exterminator treat your home

Labradoodle Savvy

Dog fleas in the pupal (cocoon) stage are resistant to insecticides, including foggers, so it may be necessary for you to treat your home 2 or 3 times to get rid of all fleas

The second treatment should be done 2 weeks after the first

You should also wash or otherwise treat your dog's bedding on a regular basis

Yard / Garden

Spray your yard with an insecticide that has residual activity for at least 30 days

For a difficult flea problem, consider having an exterminator treat your yard

In warm, humid climates, it may be necessary to spray your yard every 30 days during the warmer months of the year

Some newer products contain a growth regulator (fenoxycarb) and need to be applied only once or twice a year

With the new residual treatments for your Labradoodle, environmental control is less important. In some cases, using these products on your dog effectively controls the flea population in the environment. Consult your veterinarian for more information on controlling fleas in your pet's environment.



Labradoodle Allergies

Labradoodles, like humans, can also suffer from allergies. Most common Labradoodle allergies are itching of the skin. The respiratory tract can be affected causing coughing, sneezing, and/or wheezing. At times, the eyes and nose may develop a discharge. Also, the digestive system may be affected causing vomiting or diarrhea.

About 20 percent of the Labradoodles in the United States suffers from some type of dog allergy. The most common dog allergies usually fall into one of the following; skin allergies, flea allergies, food allergies, inhalant allergies, contact allergies, or bacterial allergies.

Skin allergies

An allergic skin disease of dogs, known as canine atopic dermatitis, is caused by your dog's immune system hypersensitivity to common substances in the environment, such as dust mites or molds.

The signs of atopic dermatitis usually appear within the first two years of a dog's life.

If your dog begins to groom excessively, with licking or chewing of the paws, abdomen, and hind quarters, then it may suffer from atopic dermatitis. Also, check to see if the ears are reddened and hot to the touch.

Signs of dog allergies of this type are in the armpits, groin, or between the toes of the paws. Check to see if there is saliva staining. In light colored dogs, it appears as a red-brown staining. In chronic cases the skin, mostly in the abdomen, may change color from a pinkish, to angry red, to black mottling.

Other dog allergies like flea allergy, food allergy, and parasitic infestations may mimic the symptoms of atopic dermatitis making it difficult to diagnose. Once fleas, foods, and parasitic infestations are eliminated as being the offending culprits, then allergy skin testing for dust mites, pollens, and molds may be done to determine what causes your dog's atopic dermatitis.

Flea allergies

The most common form of dog allergies is flea allergy dermatitis. The flea itself is not the culprit in canine flea allergies. It is their saliva that causes the allergic reaction.

A skin allergy test can be preformed to determine if a dog is allergic to flea saliva. If it is, then a strict flea control regimen is required to reduce symptoms to dog allergies of this kind.. Caution must be used however to make sure the chemicals in the flea preparations are not harmful to your dog.

Inhalant allergies

Just like humans, canine inhalant dog allergies can be caused by pollens (tree, grass, and weed), dust mites, molds, and chemicals.

Although any pure bred or mutt can acquire inhalant allergies, the most common breeds that are affected by these dog allergies include Terriers, Labradoodles, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, Irish Setters, Dalmatians, Miniature Schnauzers, Pugs and Shih Tzus.

The symptoms of an inhalant allergy include scratching, biting, chewing at feet and constant licking. The itching may be most severe on feet, flanks, groin, and armpits.

Inhalant allergies are often the reason for recurrent ear infections in your dog.

Food allergies

Labradoodles can become allergic to a food they have eaten for years which causes many people to over look the possibility of a food allergy.

Food allergies only account for 10 percent of dog allergies. Common food allergies to food include; chicken, beef, pork, milk, fish, eggs, corn, wheat, soy, artificial sugars and chemical preservatives.

Determining which food allergen can be time consuming. First, eliminate all the possible allergens from the diet, by using a home made diet consisting of a protein and a starch your dog has not eaten before. Gradually add back, one at a time for a week, the ingredients of your dog food. If symptoms return, then the offending food allergen should be easily determined. Commercial dog foods can be found that do not contain the offending allergen.

Food sensitivities in a Labradoodle may manifest as itchy skin, scratching at ears, shaking of the head, licking and biting at the hind quarters or feet, rubbing faces on carpeting, ear inflammations, coughing, and rarely vomiting, diarrhea, flatulence, sneezing, asthma like symptoms, behavioral changes, seizures, gagging, and vomiting.

Contact allergies

Contact allergy is the least common of all the types of dog allergies. Some of the common contact allergens include flea collars, wood bedding, grass, plants, and sometimes chemicals.

Bacterial allergies

Several species of Staphylococcus (Staph) bacteria live on normal dog skin. Normally Staph does not cause a problem with its host, but some Labradoodles develop an allergy to it.

With this type of allergy your dog develops areas of hair loss that look much like ring worm. These areas become infected and need to be treated with antibiotics. The Staph allergic dog usually has recurrent Staph infections.



Epilepsy/ Seizure Disorder

When your Labradoodle is between 2 to 5 years old, he may develop seizure disorder.

With all dog seizures you need to seek immediate veterinary care

Dog seizures are due to abnormal electrical conduction within the brain, that results in a loss of consciousness (in most cases), and various physical signs that can be associated with the seizure.

Most dog seizures usually last between 30 seconds to 2 to 3 minutes. It may only take place for 30 seconds but may seem forever to you. You need a veterinarian if it lasts more than 5 minutes.

Emergency treatment is definitely called for if your Labradoodle goes into seizure for 10 minutes or longer, twice in the span of 24 hours, or if he has a second attack before he could completely recover from the first seizure attack.

Physical signs of dog seizures

- Falling over to one side
- Legs "paddling" or generalized trembling/twitching
- Jaw "chomping"
- Salivation
- Urination
- Defecation
- Eyes "rolled back"
- Vocalizing

Most dogs will seem anxious, seek out the owners prior to the actual seizure, when the above signs can be seen. What you do in such instances is not panic and time the attack by actually looking at a watch or clock. Remain by your Labradoodle's side; be there when he comes out of the seizure to calm him. Stroke and comfort him.

Then your dog will often seem disoriented, and "drunk" in appearance, sometimes behaving blind, stumbling about, poorly responsive to his/her environment. This last phase of disorientation with dog seizures can last from as little as 10 minutes to several hours.

Labradoodle Savvy

To keep your Labradoodle from hurting himself during the seizure, place thick cushions, blanket, etc. between your dog's head and any hard furniture and protect him from the stairs any sharp objects, water etc. Unlike seizure attacks in human, animals do not swallow their tongue. So you don't have to put your hand or spoon or any other object into your Labradoodle's mouth when he has an attack. Be very careful to avoid handling your dog's head directly, since this has often resulted in a biting injury to owner's hands.

With a seizure your dog will be unaware of his/her surroundings when seizing, and may bite down very hard on your hand and not even realize it.

Also, keep children and other pets away from your sick Labradoodle.

Coming out of the seizure, your Labradoodle will be groggy, confused and feel like he has done something wrong. He may make unusual sounds and stumble around.

Do not allow him on the stairs until he has fully recovered. In the mean time, sooth him by talking to him softly, offer him some water, stroke and comfort him.

If dog seizures last for longer than 5 minutes they may be turning into "status epilepticus" which essentially means a constant state of seizure activity, and if the seizures are not stopped, this can lead to life threatening consequences.

This also can cause some temporary or permanent damage of the brain tissue. If a seizure climbs towards 5 minutes, get your dog to a vet immediately.

And if he doesn't recover fully after 30 minutes, consult your veterinarian or any emergency vet facility.

If your pet has more than one seizure in a 24- hour period, this is considered a "cluster" of dog seizures. You need to seek veterinary care once he or she has the second seizure, since this indicates a rapid succession of dog seizures and may require anticonvulsants be started to control these. A "cluster" will often precede "status pilepticus", as indicated above.

Make a record

Make sure to pay close attention to what you are witnessing. Record in notebook the following: Time the length of the seizure, and record Time the length of the "disoriented" phase that follows the seizure, and record - document exactly what signs were seen (from above list) was it associated with any events eg: exercise, eating, drinking, etc ... date and time of seizure.

The information that would be important to your veterinarian regarding such episodes includes:

1. Duration of the attack
2. The type of muscular activity your Labradoodle exhibits during seizure
3. Any abnormal behavior during the attack
4. Frequency of the seizure

By keeping a journal, it helps you to know how often your Labradoodle is suffering from dog seizures, and are these getting longer, or more violent? This information is important for you vet to help him treat the seizure(s).

The first time your Labradoodle has a seizure, your vet may take blood and x-rays to be assessed for any systemic problem that may cause the seizure, as well as, examine your pet for any abnormal neurologic or cardiac signs.

Patterns of dog seizures

Some Labradoodles have been known to have one seizure in their lives, while others develop serious repeated dog seizures. Your pet may never seizure again, or may continue to have dog seizures. You play an important role in the diagnosis and proper treatment of your pet's seizures, by providing an accurate history, and seeking veterinary help when indicated.



Bloat

Bloat, otherwise known as Gastric Torsion, Gastric Dilation-volvulus (GDV) or Twisted Stomach, *is* life threatening, so bring your Labradoodle to the veterinarian immediately – he will need to be operated on.

This condition can happen suddenly, and usually occurs in deep chested dogs. GDV causes the stomach to fill with air and twist, resulting in the trapping of the contents in the stomach, causing severe swelling of the abdomen.

The symptoms include restlessness, drooling, nausea and the stomach is bloated (distended abdomen). Your Labradoodle may try to vomit and will continue to gag and may possibly throw up stringy looking foam or mucus.



Cancerous and Benign Tumors

Labradoodles, like most dog breeds can get cancer.

So any time you see a bump on your Labradoodle, you should check it out. About 20 out of 100 cases are cancerous.

Watch out for both external and internal lumps, eye ulcers or cherry eye as they called it, as well as dermodicosis or skin sores.

Mast cell tumors are malignant and they do not occur very often but can form either in the skin or within the body.

The related disorders reported along such tumors are round raised masses in the skin of your Labradoodle, lack of appetite, vomiting and abdominal pain. Check for tarry stools due to bleeding in the upper intestinal tract.

Labradoodles of any age can develop mast cell tumor but older ones, above 8 years, are more prone to it.

Never take tumors in your Labradoodles lightly, even a small one! The veterinarian would usually have them removed immediately because of their high susceptibility to cancer.

One owner noticed her Labradoodle had a bump the size of a mosquito bite that did not go away even after 10 days. The vet diagnosed it a malignant tumor and removed it the very next day. The owner felt so relieved that the tumor was removed before the cancer had a chance to spread.

Another owner found both his Labradoodle girls had lumps and had it checked out immediately. The vet removed the lumps due to their breed and the Labradoodles were all fine now!

Yet another owner was not so lucky.

“I have had the pleasure of raising two great Labradoodles but both passed away much too young of cancer. The last one, Nick, died one week after being diagnosed with anal cancer. It spread rapidly and he was only 7 years old!”



Cataracts

Cataracts usually occur in older dogs, but can also appear in younger dogs that are prone to cataracts due to their hereditary, such as Labradoodles.

Your vet can diagnose what is know as “juvenile cataracts” in your young dog, and if your canine is in good health, the cataracts can usually be successfully removed surgically.

Cataracts will appear to look like a hazy blue film on your dog’s eye, and if left untreated will cause blindness.

Cataracts can only be treated with surgery, and whether or not your Labradoodle is a candidate for this procedure will need to be determined by their vet.



Cryptorchidism

Cryptorchidism is peculiar to male dogs and a condition present at birth.

The testicle/s, which developed in the abdomen, fail to descend into the scrotum. The usually underdeveloped and non-functional testicle/s should be removed, as it could turn cancerous later in life.

If the condition remains after the puppy is more than 2 months old, then the chances are it will remain so permanently.



Deafness

The is among the more than 35 breeds of dogs on record to have hereditary sensorineural deafness; most common in breeds referred to as “white coated”, such as Jack Russell Terrier, Bull Terriers, and Dalmatians.

The condition cannot be reversed with medications, surgery or hearing aids. Dogs also could become deaf from old age, toxicosis or infection.

How do you tell if your Labradoodle is deaf?

He doesn't respond to spoken commands and only responds to you when he sees you.

He keeps shaking his head and pawing his ears or turns in the wrong direction when you call him.

He sleeps more than normal and would not wake up till you physically touch him.

But not to worry, you can still have a wonderful companion in your deaf Labradoodle through sign language.

Dogs have been known to learn as many as 65 command words in sign language. These include signs for, among others, “stop”, “potty”, “drop it”, “stay”, “lay down”, “sit”, “come” and “cookie”.

As extra measures, you want to keep the deaf Labradoodle in a safe environment as he cannot hear approaching dangers like an approaching car. So keep him on a leash and close to you when in traffic or out for walks.

On his nametag, add the word “deaf” so he will not be misunderstood if he ever gets lost. Some suggest putting a bell as well so you know where to find him if he gets lost.

And finally, if your Labradoodle tested positive for inherited deafness in one or both ears, do not breed him or her.



Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a chronic condition that is caused by the deficiency of the insulin hormone. Insulin is what enables the body to metabolize sugar. Diabetes disables the dog's body's ability to use glucose, and can occur from lack of sugar delivered to tissues, change in metabolism, and high blood sugar levels.

There are two types of diabetes found in dogs:

1. Type I DM – this occurs when the body fails to produce enough insulin. Almost all dogs with diabetes have this form of the disease.
2. Type II DM – this occurs when the necessary amount of insulin is produced but something interferes with the natural process and the insulin can not be used by the body.

Diabetes commonly affects both male and female middle aged and older dogs.

If you think your dog may have diabetes, the following are signs you should watch for:

- Excessive Thirst
- Frequent urination
- Weight loss in spite of a good appetite
- Sudden blindness

Once diabetes is diagnosed in your Labradoodle by their Vet, treatment will likely consist of two daily insulin shots, which will control your dog's blood glucose levels.



Heart Ailments

Bradycardia or slow heart rate may be a symptom of thyroid disorder in Labs.

Dilated cardiomyopathy constitutes a serious, emergency case.

Your dog may collapse from this condition, or his back legs may have sudden pain and paralysis.

It is a serious heart condition whereby the heart muscle is enlarged and thin walled. Your Labradoodle will experience shortness of breath, coughing and won't be able to handle exercise.



Hip Dysplasia

This is a bone disorder whereby there is an improper fit of the large femur bone with the hip socket, causing lots of pain and lameness.

It occurs more in male than in the female of primarily large breed dogs like Labradoodle.

Hip dysplasia is genetic and can be passed on. If you think your Labradoodle may have hip problem, take him for x-ray when he is 24 months old for a proper diagnosis. And then, if he is tested positive, do not breed him or her.

It develops in puppies and can show up as early as when the Labradoodle is four months old. Or it could show up much later when he is an old dog, and the hip weakens and becomes arthritic.



Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

Labradoodles having IBS aren't gaining weight, seem lethargic and have pale color mucus membrane in the mouth (oral mucosa) and eyes (eye scleras).

Labradoodle Savvy

Monitor their stool for frank or occult blood and start with a blood test to check for hematocrit (abdominal bleeding), which could save their life. This condition can be caused by food allergy.

One male Labradoodle diagnosed with IBS of the small intestine was failing to thrive and began to have syncopal episodes (fainting spells).

The owner put him on a strictly venison diet and he finally thrived, gained weight and is very active. The owner said many butcher shops sell venison and it is very reasonably priced.



Kidney Problems

Preventing kidney damage is key to your Labradoodle's survival.

If you suspect your Labradoodle may have kidney trouble, take him to the veterinarian for aggressive treatment.

Remember the concern over too much grapes or raisins is toxic for dogs and could ruin their kidneys?

Aggressive treatment in such poisoning cases mean, if your Labradoodle had just overindulged in the grapes/raisins, the doctor will induce vomiting immediately and prescribe some activated charcoal pills.

There will be repeated blood tests to determine the status of kidney function plus hospitalization and intravenous fluid therapy if necessary.

The induced vomiting is to remove as much grapes or raisins as possible while the activated charcoal is to help prevent absorption of the toxic substance.

Two days of intravenous fluid therapy is often recommended to help prevent damage to the kidneys.

Blood test is usually repeated after 48 hours and 5 to 7 days to ensure the kidneys are functioning within the normal range.

Where kidney damage has occurred, the intravenous fluid therapy shall continue until blood tests indicate the kidneys have returned to normal function again.



Dog Arthritis

How to recognize and treat canine arthritis in your Labradoodle

Dog arthritis is a common, painful condition that affects one out of five adult dogs- more than eight million in all. Although there are no miracle cures, much can be done to make old dogs with arthritis more comfortable and improve their lives.

Many Labradoodle dogs develop canine arthritis as they age. Although there are no miracle cures, much can be done to make old dogs with arthritis more comfortable and improve their lives.

Dog arthritis occurs when joint cartilage begins to split and fragment. The first signs might include stiffness, lagging behind on walks, or perhaps difficulty jumping up. Often, these signs are mistaken as part of the natural aging process however, the real cause is usually arthritis.

Unfortunately, because our Labradoodles can't tell us if and where they hurt, it can be difficult to know that our pet is in pain and not just "getting older". Dog arthritis is one such ailment that can cause pain resulting in changes in behavior. The key is to recognize changes in your pet's behavior and realize that medical intervention may often make a huge difference to bring your pet back to his old self.

Some signs of dog Arthritis in Labradoodles include

- Decreased activity
- Reluctance to walk, run, climb stairs, jump or play
- Stiffness
- Limping
- Difficulty rising from a resting position
- Soreness when touched
- Yelping or whimpering in pain
- Acting aggressive or withdrawn
- Exhibiting other personality changes

If you notice any of these changes, see your veterinarian. The sooner the condition is recognized, the sooner your pet can be helped.

If you suspect your Labradoodle may be beginning to suffer with arthritis make visit your veterinarian to identify what's causing your pet's discomfort. If arthritis is the problem, your veterinarian can recommend the best treatment option for your dog's condition, such as:

Long-term pain: Canine Arthritis pain relief

There are dozens of products for animals intended to relieve Dog arthritis by promoting joint and cartilage health. Their use has become nearly universal among veterinarians, no safety problems have arisen, and they are generally quite effective. Many vets say that every dog showing even the earliest signs of Dog arthritis should be receiving one of these products. They work best in the early stages of arthritis, while there is still reasonable joint function left to preserve.

Medications can soothe your arthritic pet a resort quality of life to your dog.

A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication that's approved for long-term use, such as Rimadyl, may be prescribed to relieve your dog's pain and inflammation, thereby improving quality of life.

Rimadyl is a new non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug given in tablet form and labeled specifically for dogs, and is effective in relieving pain and inflammation safely, even for dog arthritis long-term use.

Weight-loss/exercise program

Taking off excess weight will help decrease stress on affected joints, while moderate exercise can help prevent decreased joint function.

Diet change

Your veterinarian may recommend a diet specially designed to meet your pet's needs, such as Eukanuba Senior Plus, or Hill's G/D

Soft comfortable place to sleep

Your dog's bed should be as comfortable as your own. An old mattress or soft couch is excellent. Soft foam rubber at least four inches thick is good. Scout around for an old baby mattress

Gentle, regular exercise

Provide limited, gentle exercise. Once around the block two or three times a day is about right. Avoid strenuous activity on the weekends alternating with little or none during the week

Surgery

In severe cases, your veterinarian may recommend surgery to address such abnormalities as hip dysplasia



Medical Terms for Labradoodle's Health You Should Know

Health Terms	Descriptions
Alapechia	Hair loss of the trunk
Bloat	Swelling of stomach caused by gas that can result in stomach twisting and can be fatal.
Bradycardia	Slow heart rate
Cardiomyopathy	Heart ailment
Cataracts	Film that grows on eye leading to blindness
Cryptorchidism	Undescended testicle
Diabetes	Insulin deficiency
Gastric dilation-volvulus	Bloat
Hematocrit	Abdominal bleeding
Hip dysplasia	Genetic disorder of the hip bones
IBS	Irritable bowel syndrome
Mast cell tumor	Malignant tumor
Syncopam episode	Fainting spell
Twisted Stomach	Bloat



Labradoodles And Competition

Since Labradoodles are not recognized by a national kennel club, they are not permitted for showing. However, although your Labradoodle may not be able to enter the show ring, there are other obedience and sporting (I.E. dog agility trials, flyball, retrieving, etc.) competitions he can compete in.

Since the early 1980's, mixed-breed dogs have been allowed to compete in special competitions that have been set up by the American Mixed Breed Obedience Registry (AMBOR) and the Mixed Breed Dog Club of America (MBDCA). In order for a mixed-breed to compete, he is analyzed for certain standards such as general health traits, symmetry, and temperament.

The American Mixed Breed Obedience Registry was founded in 1983. It allows mixed dog breeds and purebred dogs that cannot be registered the chance to compete, as this option is not being offered by the American Kennel Club and other purebred clubs.

The Mixed Breed Dog Club of America was established in 1978 and allows mixed breed dogs who are spayed or neutered to be registered, so they can compete in conformation and obedience dog shows. The MBDCA has created specific regulations that allow mixed dogs to compete in conformation competitions.

In addition, you should know that your Labradoodle can be registered with the American Canine Hybrid Club (ACHC). The ACHC recognizes all hybrids that are the result of crossbreeding two purebreds; they will accept any hybrid born directly from two purebred parents. *Note: The ACHC also usually requires that the purebreds used for breeding to be registered with a national kennel club.*

The American Canine Hybrid Club was established in the early 1970's and now recognizes over 400 different hybrid dogs.

Finally, even though they cannot be registered at the American Kennel Club or compete in their competitions, the Labradoodle and other mixed breeds are eligible to earn the AKC's Canine Good Citizen Award. On the same token, the UK Kennel Club features a show known as Scruffs that is available only for mixed breeds. This show judges these dogs on health, temperament and character.



Hybrid Clubs and Labradoodles Pedigrees

Labradoodle pedigrees

You may be interested in learning the individual heritage of your dog to discover if there are any purebred champions in your dog's lineage. This ancestral lineage of your dog is what is known as its pedigree.

The basic starting point, when distinguishing the Labradoodle pedigree, is champions and phenotype.

For instance, when you adopted your Labradoodle he or she should have come with information that classified their purebred parents with particular genetic characteristics. For example, is your Labradoodle a cross between a Labrador and a Standard Poodle or a Labradoodle and a Standard Poodle.

It is important for you to find out which breeding method a breeder uses, why they chose this particular method of breeding, and what you should expect from the puppies produced.

If a breeder is breeding two Labradoodles to produce a litter the following is three important breeding factors for you to consider when learning of your Labradoodle's pedigree:

Outcrossing: This is when the sire (male) and dam (female) dog used for breeding are completely un-related. The point to this type of breeding is to usually create a new line of Labradoodle, such as a different sized head, face shape, an improvement of colors, body and so on.

Line Breeding: This type of breeding occurs between a sire and dam that are remotely related, such as a grandson - grandmother, nephew - aunt, half cousins, etc. This is the most popular form of breeding, as it is the best strategy for maintaining a pedigree.

Inbreeding: This is a form of breeding usually frowned upon, as it often results in genetic health problems and defects, and is one of the major reasons why so many purebreds of some dog breeds are dying out. The sire and dam of this form of breeding is closely linked such as son - mother, father - daughter, brother - sister.

You will also find that most dogs can be categorized by using different combinations of the A, B, C, D, E, G, S and T coat-color series:

- **A** Dominant black
- **a^y** Dominant yellow (golden sable, but for the Jack Russell breed it's tan)
- **a^g** Agouti (wolf gray)
- **a^s** Bicolor with saddle markings (black saddle markings with extensive tan on head and legs, resembling the look of a German Shepard)
- **a^t** Bicolor with tan-points (black with tan markings on legs, face and underbelly, resembling a Doberman)

- **B** Black
- **b** Liver (chocolate, brown)

- **C** color factor which allows melanin to be formed
- **c^{ch}** Chinchilla.
- **c^d** White coat, black nose and dark eyes.
- **c^b** Gray Cornaz (gray) coat with blue eyes
- **c** albinism with pink eyes and nose

- **D** Extreme pigmentation
- **d** moderation of pigment

- **E^m** super-extension that accompanies a black mask
- **E** extension with no traces of black mask
- **e^{br}** Brindle (combination of colors usually excessive amounts of tan or brown)
- **e** restriction of black pigment (creates recessive red/yellow)

- **G** allows graying to occur
- **g** no graying to occur

- **S** Solid. There is no white spotting
- **sⁱ** Irish spotting (white on the muzzle, forehead, chest, stomach, feet and forehead)
- **s^p** Piebald spotting (all over the body and is usually black and white but can be other colors)
- **s^w** High-white piebald spotting

- **T** allows ticking (this is spots of color that appear in the white)

Labradoodle Savvy

- parts of the fur that usually develop when the dog gets older)
- **t** no ticking

As you can see, there are many different genetic types of Labradoodle to be considered when it comes to identifying the specific pedigree that is connected to your dog, especially since Labradoodles have so many different acceptable coat colors.

You also may not have realized it, but your Labradoodle's body structure and features say a lot about his particular pedigree that can be traced back to a number of sires and dams throughout the years. Each Labradoodle has different characteristics.



Conclusion

Now that you have learned many interesting and exciting facts about your Labradoodle from this ebook, you have every opportunity to improve upon the health of your faithful companion, train him and make him a welcoming addition to your family.

Remember to take your Labradoodle to the vet for regular checkups, feed him a healthy diet, give him attention, as well as plenty of exercise to help him remain happy, in shape, and build up his immune system.

In spotting any ailment in your Labradoodle before the condition becomes serious, and supported by routine checkups by the veterinarian, will help ensure you have a happy and healthy Labradoodle that loves and is loyal to you.

In return, during your life journey together with your Labradoodle, you also become a happier, healthy and loving person.

Don't forget that obedience plays a key role in the development of your Labradoodle, and will determine how he will respond to you, and others. Take the time to teach your Labradoodle, so all of the rewarding characteristics linked to his breed can be brought out in him.

The more you learn about the nature of your Labradoodle, the better you will be able to understand him, and know how to respond to any problems that may arise. This will also help him understand you.

Without question, a Labradoodle is your forgiving and loyal friend until it is time for him to depart from this world. He will never want anything more from you than your love, attention and company, and will show you the true meaning of what it feels like to be loved unconditionally.

You will find that before long you will have stories of your own to share, just like some of the owners found in this ebook, and you too will know all about the joys, frustrations and love that is involved when selecting and training a Labradoodle as your companion.

Truly, there is no better companion than that of a faithful, loyal and loving dog. Enjoy raising your Labradoodle, and may he or she live as a friend and asset to you, and be apart of your family for years to come.

Labradoodle Savvy

Some owners are so intrigued by this kind of shared life and are compelled to pen a story about it, so others can also enjoy and learn from the experience. One day soon you too could be proudly sharing your Labradoodle stories with others. And this book, if you apply the many tips given inside, will help you create many great moments with your Labradoodle that make for better stories for you to tell others.

I hope you have gained new tips to make your Labradoodle happier, healthier and more obedient now. Please keep in contact I'd love to hear about your Labradoodle experiences.

