

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I feed my puppy and how much?

Your puppy is on a schedule of eating 3 times a day and will stay on this schedule until they are 10-12 weeks when they will eat twice a day. They eat Costco's Kirkland Chicken, Rice, and Vegetables. You can also transition them with success to Nutro Lamb and Rice for puppies. Feed ½ cup at each serving. Offer water until 8 pm and then no water to prepare them for sleep. A nice half hour walk before bed will tucker them out to sleep through the night.

Where should my new puppy sleep?

Your new puppy will feel disoriented in their new home. We provide a towel with the mom and litter's scent. You will want to place this in the crate with them for a few evenings. Puppy will be looking for reassurance its first night home and we recommend that you let it sleep in your bedroom near you. This way, you will hear puppy stir if it needs to go potty during the night. A couple of friendly fingers poked through into the crate will be greeted with a thankful puppy kiss at times of insecurity. The upside of this whole method is that you, your family, and your puppy will have a good sound night's sleep! Gradually, after the first few nights, when your puppy realizes that it has found its permanent and loving home, you will be able to move the crate to another part of the house if you wish. We have found that putting the crate in the family member that is the deepest sleeper works great! The crate should be just large enough for puppy to lie down and stretch out, but not large enough to walk around in. Puppies dislike soiling or wetting a small sleeping space.

How do I potty train my puppy?

Baby puppies need to eliminate quite frequently. The time it will take to teach your puppy to go potty in the designated part of your yard will depend not on your puppy, but on You. Vigilance is a must.

Puppies will go poop or pee after eating, drinking, playing, or on waking up from a sleep...plus some extra times in between. CARRY puppy outside each hour and a half during the day, and put down in the spot where you want it to eliminate. WAIT. Give puppy time to get over the excitement of being outside (the fun of chasing a leaf or seeing new and stimulating things may take its mind off what it is out there to do) or when you take the puppy back inside, first thing it may do is pee or poop...inside. This is NOT what we want to happen. When puppy eliminates outside, praise him/her. If there is an accident inside, do NOT PUT PUPPY'S NOSE INTO ITS OWN MESS. This serves no useful purpose other than to confuse and frighten the puppy.

Restrict the area your puppy has to run about indoors to one room or part of one room, unless you are prepared to watch it EVERY MINUTE. Crating for two or three hour periods during the daytime will help puppy to strengthen its bowels and bladder and to teach it that it does not always go immediately when it feels the

inclination. Puppies are neither “clean” nor “dirty” with elimination. They are creatures of habit. So the fewer the mistakes that happen indoors, the sooner your puppy will become reliable indoors. If you are using the Wizdog system, follow their instructional advice for housebreaking.

When and how do I socialize him/her?

It is a difficult balancing act deciding whether early socialization is worth the risk of contracting disease when a puppy has not finished its course of shots. Be guided by your vet and your own common sense. Highly contagious diseases, such as the deadly killer Parvovirus, can be carried on car tires, on people’s shoes and clothing, as well as being transmitted by direct contact with an infected dog.

What amount of rest time will puppy need?

Young puppies, just like young babies, need a lot of sleep in order to develop healthy emotional and physical systems. RESTRICT the playtime of children with the new puppy and give puppy its own chilling out time where they learn not to disturb their new playmate. RESIST the temptation to cart your new puppy about to introduce it to your friends and neighbors during the first week. Puppy’s tail may be wagging nonstop, and it may have a great appetite and not appear stressed, but change of home is stress, whether from around the corner or across the world. There will be plenty of time later for showing off your gorgeous new puppy. But in the meantime, be considerate and give puppy time to find its place in the world, and to bond with you... its new pack.

What about nipping and biting?

All puppies nip and bite. It is natural. But this should be IMMEDIATELY corrected right from day one. It would not be tolerated in the dog pack, and puppy needs to learn right off that it is LAST in the order of the pack, even down to the tiniest child. One bop on the nose with a sharp “NO!” followed by praise THE FIRST TIME the puppy nips may be the last time this correction may need to be given. Nipping and biting can develop into such a serious problem if left unchecked that it is one of the few occasions where negative training is recommended. We also remind our children that we do not call it biting but nipping so that the children do not have fear associated with the term.

Should we allow roughhouse playing?

Rough and boisterous playing and games such as tug-of-war create bad habits in a young puppy. By all means, the children will want to run and play with their new puppy. But times of quiet play are necessary if the puppy is not to develop into a rough boisterous dog!

When do we start training?

Early training is a MUST! Your brand new puppy is old enough to learn to sit, walk by your side without pulling on the leash, come when it is called and be tethered for periods of up to an hour. Labradoodles are extremely intelligent.

Leave the training too late, and your puppy is more likely to train YOU than the other way around! As you know, we recommend the book The Loved Dog and highly recommend Fetch Academy if you need assistance in training.

When should we see the vet?

Your Aussie Labradoodle puppy has been raised on nothing short of the best. No expense of time and energy have been spared to give your puppy the best possible start in life. Worming has been done every two weeks, and should be continued as recommended by your vet. We recommend that you schedule a vet appointment within 72 hours of arrival for a complete health check. This will ease your mind that you have a fit and healthy puppy, and also give your vet an opportunity to give you guidelines on proper care. This will also be in keeping with the CVL contract.

***If your puppy develops diarrhea within a few days of arriving at your home, please go immediately to your vet or your local vet hospital. Stress diarrhea, caused by the stress of a move and an opportunistic “bug” called coccidia can make your puppy very sick and possibly even take his/her life! Immediate attention is required. CVL will reimburse for medication if coccidia is found

What about grooming?

Teach your puppy to stand or lie down for grooming right from the start. This will be good practice for the day when you may need to groom your dog later on. Some coat types may start to mat from between nine and twelve months of age due to the adult coat pushing out from under the puppy coat and tangling. A non-shedding dog needs to have the old puppy coat stripped out weekly during this transitional phase, which could last for a couple of months. We have also found that having puppy shaved during this time can make the transition go smoother.

UNLIKELY BUT POSSIBLE: We hope that this never happens, but in the event that you may ever need to part with your CVL Australian Labradoodle, PLEASE LET US KNOW so that we may help you to rehome him/her.

Blessings,

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