



Tallai Australian Labradoodles

www.tallai-australian-labradoodles.com

Puppy Care Notes



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Welcome to the Tallai Labradoodle Family.

So you have just arrived home with your new puppy! What next?

Please read the following general guide to find out what has happened to your puppy during its first 8 weeks of life and to get you thinking about what he or she will need in the near future. For more detailed training and care info see our puppy training manual.

I have included notes on the following;

- Feeding
- Sleeping
- House Training
- Grooming
- Health
- Things to do with your Doodle ☺

Of course if you have any other questions I would be only too happy to try and answer them, if I don't know, I will try and point you in the right direction.

I am also always keen to know how your puppy is developing, and would welcome any feedback positive or otherwise on his or her progress. In particular I would love an email and photograph or two from time to time, to assist me in planning future litters.

Once again may I remind you that our website is continually evolving, and our information and links pages are well worth revisiting from time to time. As I find more information worth passing on, it will be incorporated onto the site.

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Finally I have included in the puppy pack, numerous brochures and our two-year health guarantee agreement. Should you wish to participate in this agreement please sign and return it within 14 days of taking possession of your puppy, and I will copy the agreement and return for your records.

I also recommend you look at some type of pet insurance for your pup as accidents and older age related issues are part of everyone's life, your vet will be able to recommend a few good ones.

Good luck with puppy parenting ☺

Carla Simmons

Feeding

***"Variety's the very spice of life"* William Cowper, 1785**

Prior to going home with you, your puppy has been reduced to three feeds a day. I would suggest that you start by following what they are used to, and just like a new born baby introduce new foods (or a new diet) gradually after a few weeks of settling in to their new home.



- Breakfast** Dry Advance Puppy Growth or Dry mixed with some Advance Puppy Tin Food. (See back of packs for how much to feed over one day divided into three meals)
- Lunch** As Above or raw chicken necks as pup gets older, eaten whole (a great additional source of natural calcium)
- Dinner** Same as breakfast, with the addition 2-3 times a week of A little cheese or plain yoghurt.

Remember to weigh your puppy regularly and adjust the diet accordingly as per the instructions on the back of the food packet. This is a very basic diet, after a few weeks on this your puppy should be over the stress of moving to a new home and ready to experiment again.

Later alternatives include lamb flaps (good for teeth) and other meaty bones. Boiled rice & pasta with cooked vegetables/mince meat. NEVER EVER Cooked Bones, as they tend to splinter & can cause terrible damage inside your dog additionally DON'T feed chocolate, macadamia nuts or onion. Finally check your garden for poison plants

There are more theory's on feeding than there are breeds of dogs, you can 'Google' or request a book from your local library.

Remember every puppy is different, those receiving more exercise will need more food; please assess your puppy to keep him at a healthy weight. You may need to increase or decrease meal portions accordingly. As a rough guide decrease meal times to 2x feeds by 6 months of age & 1x main meal by 12 months.

Sleeping



I suggest from the outset you adopt the sleeping arrangements you plan on keeping. Whether this be a basket, cardboard box, hessian bed, a crate in the laundry, or a kennel in the garage, your local pet store will offer a myriad of choices, and be only too happy to take your money.

I personally like the crate in the house at night (but then again I have cane toads to deal with) with napping in the house or yard during the day. There are some very sound reasons for crate training your dog, so please don't dismiss it without doing some further research.

House Training

I can't emphasise enough the need to spend some time and get this right. The onus is on you the owner and you must be patient, determined and reliable from the outset, don't blame the puppy if you become lazy. The pay off is a dog you will enjoy having in your home with the family.

- Don't expect too much from your puppy when he or she first comes home, they have very limited bladder control.
- Dogs generally like to be clean and sleep in a clean area
- House training will be a lot easier if you keep your puppy to a routine
- Puppies have to go to the toilet when they wake up in the morning or after a nap, within 10 to 30 minutes after eating and before they go to sleep.



I prefer to use the crate method to assist in house training my dogs especially for overnight, there is a link with more information about this on my website and in the "Puppy Manual" (I will convert you to crates yet!) also there are 100's of articles on the web so Google away 😊

A word of warning don't use ammonia based cleaning products on your floors, it apparently smells like urine to the dog & they will think it is acceptable to go on our floor, as to them others obviously have been doing so before.

Grooming – Care of the Three Different Coat Types

Fleece & Wool coat types will lose hair but hopefully not on your couch, it stays trapped within the coat so you must groom it out. Brush your pup every week with a good quality slicker brush, also always brush before bathing especially when the puppy's coat is changing to its adult coat at around 10-18 months of age. At this stage brush your puppy every other day. a full clip is recommended every 6 months from 6 months of age (Spring and Autumn are a good guide ☺) (a friend failed to brush her dog during the puppy moult and after a trip to the beach the dogs coat turned to felt). Wool coats might need up to four clips a year.

Hair

The hair coat is usually seen in the first cross F1 dog however it can also show up in any generation though usually it is less prevalent as the generations advance. Normal dog grooming is required with a medium strength bristle brush.

I use Aunt Martha's Wool Mix - the eucalyptus one (yes from the laundry aisle in your supermarket) it is mild on their coat & skin and will also kill any fleas that hop on while out and about. Let your dog dry naturally where possible, don't brush your dog after their bath, rather crunch their locks in your hand as you would curly hair. If the weather is cold or the in-laws are visiting in half an hour a hairdryer on a low heat setting can be handy. Should you decide to brush only use a spray bottle with water to dampen down the fluffed dry coat and crunch it to get back their spirals and curls.

Remember dogs will be dogs and sometimes you will need to wash/groom them more or less often. Please refer to notes in the "Puppy Manual" if you want to give them a haircut or little trim up yourself or Google it. You could also go to your local dog groomer (I suggest taking a photo of your favourite Labradoodle from my website with you for them as a guide to what you want pup to look like) .When clipped they feel just like crushed velvet.

Nails

If your dog is not walking on a rough surface (footpaths etc) you might need to trim his nails ask your vet to show you how, it's not very hard and clippers can be bought from either the vet or pet store.

Ears



Once again Most long eared dogs do not get very much air circulation under their ears which can cause ear problems, and a horrible smell to boot. So please dry them after swimming or a bath. I routinely clean with an Ear Cleaner there are a few types on the market, You should also pull the wool from their ears Ear Powder can help with grip ask your vets to show you how. Prevention is much better than cure and it is kinder to your dog!

Training & Socialisation – Common Sense Really

Dogs are surrendered to shelters because often they have been inadequately trained & socialised, Most of them when they are in their teens 8-18 months of age. Labradoodles like their parent breed ancestors are very intelligent and highly trainable; they not only need but thrive upon stimulation. Even if you have trained a dog before and are confident, please attend both puppy socialisation classes and later on obedience lessons with your dog as things are likely to have changed since you last owned a dog. There is much reading material on the subject of training, and I strongly suggest you avail yourself of it and make your own informed

decisions; again there is more detailed info on training in the "Puppy Manual"



In return for your efforts your dog will become a loyal, intuitive, trustworthy and protective member of your family. Those one in a million dogs are a lot easier to come by than many people think.

ALL dogs are pack animals. If they are not taught from an early age that humans are the pack leaders, they will jockey to gain

that position for themselves, not because they are necessarily bullies, but because nature abhors a vacuum. If you and your family don't fill that vacuum, your dog will; if you don't do what's necessary to hang on to the job, your dog will surely take over, inch by inch. That over pampered, spoilt, domineering lap dog of your childless co-worker wasn't born that way.

Your puppy needs socialisation particularly between two to four months of age. Expose them to lots of new experiences or they are likely to grow up to be fearful, they have already interacted with their litter mates, our other dogs, our children. They have been exposed to the TV, stereo, the lawnmower, a noisy leaf blower, a mop cleaning the floor, the car, bathing and hairdryers. Finally they have had more visits from potential owners, new owners, family & friends than I care to recall. But what really counts is the socialisation & training they get once you take them home at 8 weeks. Just because they haven't had their final vaccinations yet does not mean you can't take them to visit family & friends.



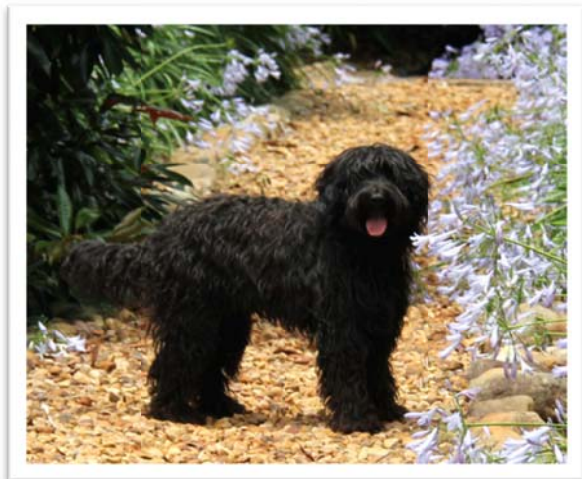
Use your local library, buy a book, search the web or join a class, but ***PLEASE DO train your dog.***

Health

Vaccinations

The major infectious diseases of dogs are difficult and expensive to treat and can cause suffering and possibly death. So rather than treat these diseases, it is far better to prevent them by a planned vaccination programme.

Accordingly your puppy has been vaccinated at 6 weeks of age. Your puppy pack includes his or her vaccination certificate.



They will need to have a booster shot at 12 and 16 weeks of age and then every year thereafter to maintain immunity. Take your certificate to your vets each time you go and discuss the need for additional vaccinations. You will be required to show your vaccination certificate when; enrolling in puppy school or should you need to put your dog in a kennel or 'doggy day care' (yes it does exist but unfortunately there is no government subsidy).

Desexing

Your puppy (unless you have a breeding pup as a Guardian family) has also been desexed between 6 to 7 weeks of age, its stitches have also been removed. Your pack includes a certificate of sterilisation (most councils have a discounted dog registration fee so keep it safe). The bump under the skin on a girl pup is the internal stitching and will take a few more weeks to disappear. Be careful when picking up your pup girl or boy as they will still be a little tender.

If you would like to know more on the benefits of early desexing and assist by promoting an informed opinion on this matter within your circle of influence please visit our website for more information.

Intestinal Worms, Fleas, Ticks & Heartworm

Your puppy has been wormed every fortnight with Drontal; this will need doing again at 10 & 12 weeks, then monthly until 6 months of age. Alternatively you may wish to start your dog on 'Sentinel Spectrum' – it is an all in one product that is effective, safe, easy & convenient. Also have a chat with your vet who will advise on the many different products available.

Check for ticks regularly, particularly after visiting tick prone areas & bush walks.

Hip Care

Hip Dysplasia at the most simplistic level is a disease in which the femur bone in the rear legs of dogs does not fit properly into the ball and socket joint at the hips. Many dogs are crippled by this disease and other dogs that have the disease although not crippled experience pain in the joint and have limited functioning.

We frequently read articles and peer reviewed scientific studies which assert that hip dysplasia is 50% genetics and 50% environment (some suggest as high as 70% may be attributed to environment). We prefer to think of it as 100% genetics, then 100% environment. Genetic considerations are the entirety of what we must as breeders consider. Once that puppy is born, environment is 100% of how well that puppy will do within the possibility of his/her genetics

I have done what I can to ensure that your puppy came from parents who were health tested for hip and elbow disorders and that the puppies diet and early weeks were healthy and accident free. Now its your turn.

Please don't over feed your dog, being overweight places stress upon their developing joints and even their adult joints. Weigh you dog regularly and adjust his/her feed accordingly with the help of your veterinarian. (If you have been pregnant you will know what a few extra pounds can do too your joints)

If you are going to feed predominately a raw or home made diet, then it is very important you have a good understanding of calcium and phosphorous levels, as well as nutrition in general. Phosphorous for instance ties up available calcium and too much calcium syrup is almost as bad as not enough. Talk to your vet or an animal nutritional specialist about these matters.

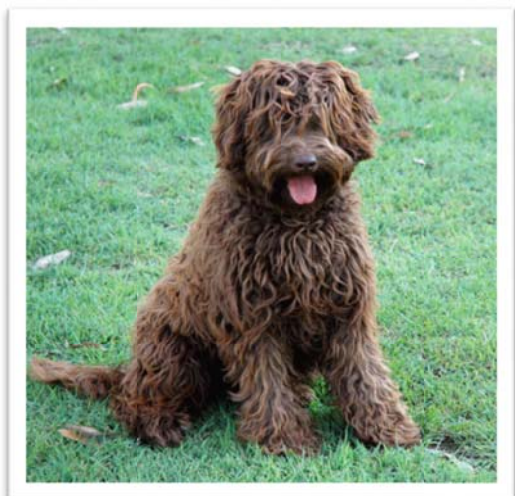
Be careful with stairs, jumping in and out of cars, rough play and accidents in general – injury can lead to problems – people who have had a car accident may suffer from joint problems as too does the elite sportsperson who has had one accident too many on the field – how many of them have to retire early?

Fitness – If your dog is not receiving regular exercise then don't push them to hard. Dogs who the opportunity to freely exercise during the day and receive regular/daily exercise with you, statistically have less joint issues. In fact dogs whose x-rays indicate they have very shallow sockets can exhibit no signs of it until a very late age if they have been well cared for and remain fit. Think about if you were unfit and engaged in the once a fortnight bout of intense activity would you suffer for it? Pull muscles and favour a particular leg, be at a greater risk of accidents whilst exercising because of your poor fitness levels?

Finally dogs should be walked on a 'loose' lead, if you are constantly pulling against your dog then seek assistance from a dog trainer. Some of the breeders from other breeds swear this causes many of if not most problems.

Things to do with your Doodle!

'A tired dog is a quiet dog, a bored dog is a noisy destructive and hyperactive dog'



Obedience Clubs

Most states now allow you to register all other desexed dogs with the various state canine controls in an affiliated registry, this allows the labradoodle to compete in Obedience, Jumping, Agility, and Field Trials along side the 'purebred' dogs.

Labradoodles are very clever and those already competing have done incredibly well. Any of these sports can be very rewarding for both you and your dog giving him lots of tasks to complete for even more, praise, love, attention

and treats

Visit www.ankc.aust.com for a list of affiliated clubs in your state.

Tricks and Movie Work

There are also places to go to learn tricks for fun or work and even dog dancing (yes you read right). The labradoodle has even started to appear in print advertising (my grandmother cuts copies out for me from time to time) so get yourself and your dog an agent quick smart before all the good ones have gone.

Therapy dogs

Sharing our labradoodles is also rewarding and many already visit the sick & elderly as the background of their parent breeds and low to non-shed coats make them perfect for the Job.

Council

Contact your local council for information on dog laws, registration & a list of dog friendly parks, off leash areas can be fun for your family and your dog.

Happy Doodling

Carla

