

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: What is an Australian Labradoodle’s temperament like?**

A: Australian Labradoodles are known for their gentle good humor and easy-going nature. Some will have playful personalities, some will be more calm, but all of them should be gentle and sweet-natured. However, a labradoodle puppy is still a puppy after all, and will definitely require training if it is to be a pleasure to be around. Even the best-natured dog can be ruined by abuse or lack of training. Australian Labradoodles are a breed that thrive with contact with their families, and they are not suited to families that spend most of the day away from home, unless you can provide other alternatives such as doggy day care or dog walkers.

**Q: How much do your puppies cost?**

A: All of our puppies (with the exception of breeding stock) are $3,500 plus 6% Maryland tax, for a total of $3,710.00.

**Q: Are the puppies in your home?**

A: Llewellyn’s Grove Labradoodles is a home-based operation. Each of our dogs live in a loving home, whether in us or in one of our excellent guardian families. Each litter is born in a bedroom of our home or our guardian’s home, and they remain there for three - four weeks. At that point, puppies spend time in larger areas with toys and a potty area. We also provide a safe outdoor area for the puppies to experience.

**Q: Do you breed F1 labradoodles or goldendoodles**?

A: All of our dogs are multi-generational Australian Labradoodles. We ONLY breed Australian Labradoodles.

**Q: Are Labradoodles non-allergenic?**

A: The quick answer is --usually. Every puppy and every person are different. Multi-generational labradoodles tend to be much less likely to cause allergies or shed. Allergies can also be caused by **saliva.** If that’s the case, it’s not difficult to train your puppy to obey “No kissing”! If you or a family member are highly allergic, you may want to visit with our dogs prior to making a purchase commitment. It’s very, very difficult and sad when someone brings home a puppy and then, after bonding, has to return it because of allergies.

**Q: What litters are coming up?**

A: You can find our upcoming litters on the homepage of our website. We post information as we breed and begin accepting applications AFTER we’ve done a sonogram to confirm the pregnancy. We post the specific dates that we will begin accepting applications on each litter page.

**Q: Can I submit an application early?**

A: We do not accept applications early. It is very difficult for us to manage applications not tied to a specific litter. Please wait until you see the litter that you are interested in on the website, and send your application then.

**Q: Can we come visit the puppies at any time before the puppy pick-up date?**

A: At this time, we are a small, in-home breeder, and can try to work with you to find a mutually acceptable date. Additionally, we often post pictures and videos of us taking care of and loving our dogs and our puppies on our website’s blog, our Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram. We hope that you’ll enjoy watching our puppies play and grow through our social media platforms.

A wonderful part of our business is getting to know the families who adopt our puppies. As much as we would enjoy visiting in person at our home with everyone who is interested in meeting our Australian Labradoodles, it is just not safe for our puppies. We totally understand families want to touch and hold and smell a newborn puppy, but in the interest of the safety of our puppies, we have a visitation policy in place to protect their health and safety.

We have such a strict visitation policy because:

* Immature immune systems. Puppies are not protected against disease that can be brought in on shoes or clothing. Many breeders have lost entire litters of puppies due to disease being brought into the breeder’s home. You don’t have to touch a puppy to transfer disease to them. Your shoes and clothing can bring it in and leave it on the floor or furniture, only to be transferred to the paws of the mama dog, who then transfers it to her babies.
* New mama dogs are extremely protective of their babies. When strangers enter the home, even if mama is in another part of the house, she hears their voices and kicks into a highly emotionally charged state. This stress causes her body to create cortisol, which enters her milk. When the puppies consume the milk, the cortisol then causes them to become stressed as well. A stressed puppy is more likely to succumb to illness and fail to thrive.
* Stressed mama dogs may panic. They could jump up and away from their puppies to assess what they think is a threat, and many times unintentionally step on or crush a puppy. The mere sound of a stranger’s voice in another room may cause them to panic and can result in an injured puppy, or even death.

In lieu of visitation, we are happy to talk with you by phone or email. We keep our Facebook page updated frequently, and are happy to provide lots of pictures and other complete information on each puppy and litter we produce.

Thank you for understanding and allowing us to put the safety, health and well-being of your puppy as our greatest priority.

**Q: Do we get to choose our own puppy? How does your allocation process work?**

A: We begin our allocations when the puppies are about six weeks of age. By that age, we have been able to evaluate each puppy’s temperament. Then we start with the first application we received and find two puppies that have a temperament that will match their family as well as meet as many of their preferences as possible. We value placing the right temperament over the right gender or color. The more flexible you are with gender or color, the better the chance that you will receive the perfect puppy! We will then contact the family with the two puppies we think are the right fit, and let you choose from there. We do ask you to make your decision as quickly as possible so we are able to move on to the next family on the reservation list.

**Q: If I am picky with gender/color, how can I be sure I’ll get the puppy I want?**

A: If you are not willing to be flexible, then you MUST be at the top of the reservations list. The first two people on the list have the most flexibility with choosing their puppy, especially in a big litter! We highly recommend you try to be as flexible as possible, as the puppies we get in each litter depend on Mother Nature!

**Q: I have several children under the age of 3. Will you sell me a puppy?**

A: Raising a puppy while you have young children is a VERY big commitment. We’ve had several young kids in our home in years past, so we know what we’re talking about! We are not opposed to selling you a puppy, but we will make sure that you understand the amount of time that house breaking, crate training, and obedience takes. These tasks can be especially hard in a busy household! We have a number of books that are listed on our recommended products page about raising a puppy and kids. We strongly recommend that you buy and read each of these books so that you are properly prepared for bringing your puppy home. It’s not enough to just train your puppy to be good with your kids; you have to train your kids to be good with your puppy.

**Q: How do you socialize the puppies?**

A: Socialization is a big part of our puppy rearing process at Llewellyn’s Grove Labradoodles. We often play loud videos of sounds from YouTube to get your puppy accustomed to noises in the world around him. Archview Labradoodles has a [great article on the socialization process](https://www.archviewlabradoodles.com/2018/09/04/socializing-your-new-puppy/) and their tips and tricks for continuing to socialize your puppy in your home.

**Q: Do you recommend crate training?**

A: We have crate trained all our dogs that live in our house, and we expose your puppy to crate training over the last few weeks in our home prior to coming to your home. While they are not 100% crate trained when they go home with you, they have become very familiar with the idea of using a crate, which makes the transition period for you a bit smoother and easier. Dogs should not spend their days in a crate, but they can spend a few hours in one while you are out running errands or going out to eat. Crates often become like their “den” or their “bedroom”, and many dogs will head to their crate when they want some quiet time or a secure place to stay. Also, a puppy that is crated cannot chew on your shoes or furniture while you are away from home!

**Q: How much exercise do Australian Labradoodles need?**

A: Labradoodles’ exercise needs are low to moderate. Your labradoodle will need a walk once or twice a day, and as an adult, they’ll need at least three potty breaks every day. Doodles enjoy walking and being out and about, but in general, they are not a high-energy dog that NEEDS to have a several-mile long run. A 30-40 minute walk around the neighborhood is enough to make them happy. While they are well able to keep up with you on a hike or jog, they don’t require it. If you walk your dog in the morning before you leave for work or start your day, your dog will spend a lot of the day resting and will be calmer and less prone to finding their own “amusements”! (i.e., chewing things they shouldn’t!) If you can’t find the time to do that, you may want to hire a dog walker to help with this .

**Q: Are the puppies micro-chipped?**

A: Yes, all Llewellyn’s Grove Labradoodle puppies are micro-chipped prior to their pickup date.

**Q: Are these puppies good for therapy or service work?**

A: Definitely! Labradoodles often have very successful careers as therapy or service dogs. Australian Labradoodles are very intelligent and eager to please, which makes them great candidates for training purposes. If you are looking for a puppy for this purpose, please let us know. Your therapy dog trainer will likely want to visit the litter to see if they feel that one of puppies will work for the specific training needs.