

Amalie's holistic approach to puppy health



What health care does my Amalie Labradoodle need?

Your pup will have been checked by our vet and cleared of any major health concerns. Routine vaccinations and worming treatments have also been given from 2 weeks of age. Our pups generally suckle exclusively on mother's milk until 4-5 weeks of age to give them balanced nutrition as nature intended it and then weaned onto either a rice, chicken and vegetable mix or softened, high quality commercial dog food. By the time they are ready to go to new homes they are eating 3 meals a day of dry puppy kibble.

The basics – routine health care

Your pup will need annual vaccinations and regular intestinal worm, heartworm and flea/ tick prevention through out his life. Your vet can provide information regarding the various preparations available – also check out prices on line or in pet stores.

The belly – feeding

You can continue your pup's feeding routine when he comes home by using Eukanuba puppy food. For mini and medium sized pups, use - *Medium Breed Puppy* dry food.

You can also give a range of treats to satisfy their need or want to chew – pigs ears, calf hooves, Greenies[®], carrots and raw chicken wings are some of the things they have already been introduced to.

The brain – stuff to chew and do!

The labradoodle is smart – smart dogs, like smart kids will get bored if not appropriately challenged. Mental stimulation can be just as good a work out for you pup as a run at the dog park. Teach your pup a few tricks, enroll in puppy pre-school and obedience classes and check out the web for lots of other ideas. In our Puppy Care Notes we provide some ideas like the Kong[®] chew toys and recipes. Remember, if your pup is misbehaving, he is probably bored... Please also read | **Joint Care for Your Puppy**



Grooming and bath time!

To keep your labradoodle's coat in good condition you will need to groom him regularly. I recommend brushing at least weekly. This will help to remove any mats especially from around the ears, tail and legs. I also run my hands through the coat daily to remove any grass seeds that will start a knot in the coat if left there. If you live in a paralysis tick area this is also good practice – check the pads of the feet, between the toes and in the ears too!

Make sure your pup's coat is free of knots before bath time. Adding water to a knotted coat is a sure recipe for disaster as mats will become thicker and more difficult to remove. Often the only way to get rid of a serious knot is to cut it out. The same goes for swimming – brush/comb first!



Ears – they need a little special attention

We will show you how to care for your pup's ears - we find it is one of the things that gets less attention as time goes on. Neglecting ear care can lead to problems as the hair in the ear canal grows so please read this bit carefully.

The dog's ear canal is long and narrow. In the labradoodle it is hairy and because the ears flop over, air circulation can be limited. If moisture, wax and dirt accumulate, the dark ear canal is the perfect spot for bacteria to multiply. The ear can become painful, smelly and infected. So to prevent this, we encourage you to clean the ears weekly with a special ear cleaning solution and to occasionally pluck some of the hair from the ear canal. Your pup won't like it at first so do a little at a time. A bit of talcum powder on your fingers can help you get a better grip of the hair. DO NOT use tweezers or scissors - the ear canal has limited sensation and gradually your pup will get used to this routine ear care. Use the ear cleaner after the bath and swimming too.



More information?

When you adopt your labradoodle we will show you basic grooming tips, provide you with a grooming DVD and be on hand to ask questions if you want more info or help.