

Puppy FAQ's

Most people I talk to are first time puppy owners and seem to ask the same general questions. So, to give my fingers a break I decided to take some of the similar questions and combine them into an answer sheet to help everyone out. If you have more questions please always feel free to ask!!

1.) Is there a major difference between males and females?

A lot of people instantly tell me that they want a female. When I ask why it's generally because they fear a male that will "mark" his territory. A male puppy that is young and hasn't hit "puberty" goes to the bathroom the same as a female. The problem begins when they are not fixed in time. I suggest to everyone to get your pups fixed when your vet says it's time to avoid any "potty" issues. Cockapoos are excellent puppies and because of their wonderful personalities I would take either sex. They're great with kids, a perfect size, and are super easy to train. Male or Female, you can't go wrong!

2.) Are you a puppy mill/large breeder/chain store?

Thank fully a lot of people are starting to realize that there are a lot of puppy mills or bad breeders out there so I often get asked about our breeding practices. We are not a puppy mill, we are a small family breeder, just Sandy and me, Jamie, raising the puppies together. We have a small family farm with lots of land in a quiet area that is perfect for all of our animals (we have cats, dogs, horses, chickens, etc.) We are not affiliated with any other kennel, we are only "Cute Cockapoos," and do not provide animals for resale at pet or chain stores, and do not support or help puppy mills!! I always ask that even if someone doesn't adopt from us please do your homework and make sure you are not supporting a puppy mill and do not purchase from a pet store unless the animal is coming from a shelter. Pet stores generally get their animals from puppy mills so watch out! We also support a lot of animal charity and rescue groups so if you don't find or cannot afford a "name brand" puppy consider a shelter, they need homes too!

3.) Will the puppy be fixed?

Our puppies generally come home between 6-10 weeks of age so they're far too young to get fixed. We do suggest that you have this procedure done as soon as it's possible which is between 4-6 months depending on your vet.

4.) What vaccinations does the puppy have and will they need more?

All of our puppies come up to date on their vaccinations, vet checked, de-wormed, and with a health record. We give you a list of the vaccinations and their dates so that you and your vet will have a complete history. The puppy will need to get their second and third puppy shot as well as a rabies vaccination within the first few weeks of having them, also whatever your vet suggests.

5.) Is shipping dangerous or stressful?

Most people who adopt out of state are always nervous or worried about shipping. We ship about 90% of our puppies all over the U.S. and always hear back how it was much easier than everyone thought, they're so glad they did it, etc. Because we ship so often we are friends with the employees at the airport and most of the time the puppy is carried around the back office and played with by jealous employees wishing they could have them! This results in a tired puppy sleeping during his trip. We also try very hard to get the shortest/fastest flight possible that works with everyone's schedule. The puppy is in a crate, with food/water, treats, and bedding to keep them comfortable. They ride in the heated/cooled cargo area of the plane, and we do not give them any type of sedatives or medication so as not to affect their system. We ship through Northwest or Delta airlines anywhere in the Continental U.S. and parts of Canada as well. There is an additional fee for shipping and it covers the cost of the flight, crate, and health certificate.

6.) How big are the parents, how big will the puppy get, how much does he weigh?

Our pups are first generation Cockapoos. Most of the parent combinations are from a Toy Poodle weighing 5-10lbs and a Cocker Spaniel weighing about 20-25lbs. This generally results in a puppy that weighs 16-22lbs. Sometimes we have smaller, toy size pups but I give specifics about your puppy so that you can be sure about what you are getting. Keep in mind I am not psychic but can give you a general range or idea about their size as adults! Because the pups are young when you receive them they generally only weigh about 5-7lbs. so be prepared to have a small puppy!

7.) Are there any health concerns with the parents?

The parents are our personal pets, on site (unless dad is doing stud service!) We home raise the babies and have the vet come here so as not to spread germs to the pups. Because the puppies are vet checked the parents are there and seen by the vet as well. We try very hard to breed quality, happy, and healthy puppies and would never knowingly breed two parents that have health issues. All of our dogs are young and healthy and pass on great puppies with excellent characteristics.

8.) What type of personality does the puppy have?

I obviously cannot go into specifics on this one but I can tell you that our babies are home raised by us and get lots of attention and socialization! We are not a nasty puppy mill where our animals are caged, never see the light of day, touch grass, or get attention, it's just Sandy and I raising them and making sure they'd be the type of puppy we would want to take home. The parents are our personal pets we love them and care for them daily. We treat the puppies as if they were to be our own. We try very hard to get them used to all sorts of situations, meaning have them play with people of all ages, other pets, and prepare them for your home. Because Cockapoos are so smart they catch on very quickly to learning new things and are very easy to train. They're very fun loving pups, are mild mannered, a great size, and love kids! They make excellent companions and family pets!

9.) Are the pups house trained?

The pups are not house trained but they are paper trained. We find that it's much easier to fully potty train them when they are at their final homes. We do suggest using potty pads/paper in the house while working on potty training.

10.) Do I have suggestions for Potty training?

This is one of the most frequently asked questions! Cockapoos are incredibly smart and catch on fast to training. My suggestion for potty training is to take your puppy out to the same spot in the yard and make a big deal out of it when they "go." (Yay, good puppy, good job, you went potty, good boy!!) Things like that let them know they've done something good. I suggest the same spot in the yard so that they can catch onto it being a pattern and pick up previous smells. Also tell them it's time to go outside, time to go potty, etc. Always take them out immediately after they wake up, like us they have to go after a nap or in the morning and won't hold it. To start with take them out every two hours, watch them in the house, if they start sniffing, circling, it's time to go. If they sleep with you they'll also need to go out in the middle of the night for awhile as their bladders are not yet strong enough to hold it through the night. When they wake up and start to be active it's time to take them out and then they'll generally fall right back asleep in your arms. It's a process but the breed is smart and with a little help from you they catch on very quickly!

11.) Will they be weaned from their mother's milk?

We do not let the puppies go home until they are fully weaned and able to eat and drink on their own. We watch to make sure they're eating well and can survive in a new situation on their own.

12.) What do I feed them, are they on a schedule?

We feed Purina One dog food. We do suggest sticking with the brand they were raised on or at least buying a small bag to mix with the brand of your choice. This will help with any digestion issues they may have when making the switch. We feed free choice, meaning leaving a bowl out for them to munch on through the day. If you have a hard time getting them to eat in the beginning leave a few pieces on the floor by the bowl, show them where the food is, and try softening it in the morning (soaking it in warm water until it is spongy) to get them started. When they're just starting to eat we soak it in warm water to make it easier to chew and serve it on a plate, this may need to be done just to get them started in their new home. If you choose a different brand try to stay away from generics or low cost dog foods that have a lot of corn/wheat fillers, remember dogs are carnivores and the first few ingredients should be meat products.

13.) Do they have a favorite treat?

It may sound gross, but we give the babies Roasted Pig Ears to snack on. It's a natural treat that's great for teething and keeps them entertained. We also do give Eukanuba or Iams bones to snack on, but not too many so that they don't gain excess weight. Try to stay away from rawhide bones/products as they can split and cut their throats.

14.) Do we crate train?

We personally do not crate train and instead raise our pups in Canine Exercise pens. Unlike a small crate, Exercise pens are similar to a child's playpen with walls but no top or bottom. They are large enough to put a bed, potty pads, food, and toys in, so that the puppy doesn't feel so confined and has room to play and stretch out. They're collapsible, so can be put anywhere and are also nice in the yard. I do also suggest to people that have mud rooms, small bathrooms, kitchens to get a baby gate so that the puppy has room but can still be contained. Canine exercise pens can be found at any local pet place (Petco, Petsmart, Fleet Farm, and also online as well.)

15.) What do we need to get for their arrival?

There are a few basic supplies you will need in order to be prepared for your puppy. The first obvious ones are food and also the food/water dishes to put it in. As I stated above, we do not do crate training and suggest a baby gate or exercise pen both can be found online or at basic pet supply stores (petsmart, petco, Fleet Farm, etc.) If you are not shipping (crate is included w/shipping) a crate will be necessary to transport the puppy. They're small now, but I would suggest a medium size crate to use as they grow. A nice pillow/bed is a nice bonus, and of course toys! The pups are small so actually like a lot of cat sized toys, they always take them from my poor kitty! Also small stuffed animals, just remove any eyes, buttons, bells-pieces that can be swallowed or choked on. Balls, rope toys, squeaky soft toys are always enjoyed very much! You can always take them to the store and figure out what they like best. We suggest waiting on a collar until you have the puppy so that you can get the proper size.

16.) How do I get prepared for their arrival?

Before your puppy arrives look at the house through the puppies eyes! Remove any poisonous items that are within reach (plants, chemicals, plug ins, etc.) Move cords that are within reach, anything that is chewable and of value. Keep an eye on them once they arrive and see if anything "naughty" catches their attention. If so, remove or protect it from their reach because when you're not looking they are sure to go back to it! Pick up shoes, small toys that they can choke on, expensive rugs that they may use for the bathroom, block off stairs and rooms with a lot of electrical wires (offices.) Crawl around on the floor to get their point of view and see what may attract them!

A few nice websites to check out for help are:

www.purina.com

www.perfectpaws.com

www.dogtraininghq.com

www.peteducation.com

www.placervillevet.com

www.puppydogweb.com

Or just Google "preparing for a puppy" or "puppy training" there are thousands of sites out there!

