

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!!

Basic info about the adoption process:

1.) 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!

2.) What form of payments do we take?

To officially adopt a puppy we require a \$250, non-refundable deposit, in the form of a personal check, money order, cashier's check or cash. We can take credit cards if you are already an established member of Paypal but there is a fee associated with using it. For the balance we will take cash, money orders, cashier's checks or Paypal as well, just no personal checks.

3.) Is there an application that needs to be filled out to adopt a puppy?

We do not have an official application to adopt a puppy. When calling or emailing us about potentially adopting a puppy we like to get some information from you to be sure that our puppies are getting proper homes. We may ask you about where you live, animal experience, income, etc. It's not to be nosy, we're simply making sure you'd be a good match for our animals. We want them to go to good, safe, permanent homes where they will be happy and you will be as well!

4.) Do you dock the puppies tail?

We do not dock tails, your puppy will come with a long and waggy tail that we promise wags a lot!!! If you are set on wanting to get a puppy that has a docked tail we suggest speaking with your vet to see if their tails can be docked at the time the puppy is neutered or spayed.

5.) When will the puppy be ready to come home?

Puppies leave between the ages of 7 to 8 weeks. If you are local and can pick up your puppy they can go home at 7 weeks of age. If you are out of state and need to have your puppy shipped they legally are not able to leave until the age of 8 weeks. It is important to get your puppy around this age because it is a time when they have left their mother and siblings and are now ready to bond with and learn from you. 99% of our adopting families are able to get their puppies when they are ready. Because of this if you are unable to get your puppy on time, and we agree to keep them longer, there will be a boarding fee of \$5 per day after the age of 8 weeks.

Basic Puppy information and care tips:

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 Cockapoos mild mannered or loud, hyper and barky?

Cockapoos are NOT the small, ankle biter, loud, yippy dog that some people envision when they think of a small breed dog. Cockapoos are mellow, mild mannered, laid back, and very social. You have to remember part of the reason some dogs become yippy and barky is because their owners have not properly socialized them. Yes, for some breeds it's their nature but for most it's due to not being socialized with a lot of people, not being taken places, and basically living their life in their house. Cockapoos love people! They are social, friendly, great with kids, and easy to train. They may bark when playing w/another dog or when someone comes to the door but that's just natural for dogs to do. They are not hyper or high strung. As puppies they obviously like to play and they will run around and wear your kids out but they're not the uncontrollable dog you see dragging their owner down the street when going for a walk. Our puppies are very used to people, other dogs, and kitties so they are pretty much ready for anyone's home. Once you get them it's very important to start socializing them and training them right away, you as their owner, are largely responsible for how your dog turns out. If you don't give them attention or socialize them you're not going to get the dog you want. The younger you start teaching a dog the better, if there are things you do and don't want them to do work with them to form the type of puppy you are looking for. I've heard way too many times people complaining about their pets but not wanting to take any responsibility for their lack of focus or training the animal. They're just like kids, they need to learn and be taught. Cockapoos are good for any household and all ages!

3.) Will the puppy be fixed?

Our puppies generally come home between 7-9 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. Speak with your vet to see what age they are performing the procedure and remember it's important to get it done on time! If you wait too long and their hormones kick in you'll be dealing with females going into heat and males will begin to hump and mark their territories.

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, their serial numbers, and the dates they were given 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, along with regular de-wormings.

Why do you have to continue to de-worm your puppies if they already have been by us? Because 98% of puppies are born with worms plus they are super easy to spread and pick up from others! Because of this it is important to repeatedly de-worm them several times to make sure you kill all adults and hatched eggs. De-wormers kill worms at their adult stage, meaning anything that is still in the form of an egg is safe. So once you kill the adults you need to go back again to kill any and all eggs that have hatched to prevent another infestation. If your puppy has a positive fecal exam for worms, which is very possible and common, discuss what de-worming options you have with your veterinarian.

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 Frontier or Delta airlines anywhere in the Continental U.S. and parts of Canada as well. There is an additional fee for shipping which is based on which airline we use, 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 Miniature Poodle weighing 12-15lbs 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 both a vet that comes here as well as one we visit at the clinic. We keep health records of both our puppies and our parents so that everyone is up to date on vaccinations and properly attended to when needed. 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. If a parent were to develop an issue we would no longer breed them, we don't get anywhere in life by breeding unhealthy puppies, we are animal lovers and don't want to create 'bad' puppies.

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.) How are the puppies socialized?

As I've said before, we treat our puppies like they were to be our own pets so they get lots of attention! Most of our Cockapoos are born right in our hands, we can generally tell when a mom is going into labor so we're right there to catch them as they arrive! They immediately feel the touch of our hands and hear our voices as we welcome them into the world. As they grow they constantly are with us, being held, fed, pet, spoken to, played with. Because they are pets and go to homes they become used to hearing household noises that occur on a daily basis, things like the radio, microwave, phone ringing, noises from doing the dishes, typing on the computer, the doorbell, speaking on the phone, etc, etc, etc. When they are old enough they romp around the yard and play in the grass. We live out in the country so they hear natural noises made from other animals and trees. We have families here constantly so people are always 'oohing' and 'aahing' them as they walk up to them to meet and play with them. People come and here and play with the babies, kids run around all excited, and the puppies get to cuddle in new laps and get belly rubs from all willing parties. The puppies are never alone, we are with them throughout the day and they always have another of their kind with them. We keep litter mates together but also mix groups when they are of a similar age so that they can socialize and grow together, this gets them ready for homes with multiple animals. We

also have kitties, some want nothing to do with the babies, others will tolerate being climbed on for a period of time, this also helps them prepare for homes with other animals. So, from day one, our puppies are socialized in various ways.

10.) 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.

11.) 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!

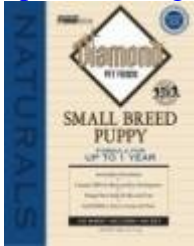
12.) Will they be weaned from their mother's milk?

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. It is important for you to understand that puppies will not need milk when they come home with you. If you feed them cow's milk it can seriously upset their digestive system so please do not do it!!!

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

We feed Diamond Small Breed Puppy food, it's in a Blue and Cream colored bag, pictured below. 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. You can locate a dealer/store that sells Diamond Pet food by visiting their website at: <http://www.diamondpet.com> then click on their 'where to buy' section and you can put in your area and it will tell you the nearest dealers. 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. Also please do not feed your dog milk or table scraps, this can seriously upset their digestive system!



14.) 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 or Greenie, 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.

15.) 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.) I have a picture of one at the bottom of this sheet.

16.) 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. I also offer homemade fleece blankies for \$12 that we let the puppies and parents snuggle and play with so that the pup can take home

familiar scents and have a source of comfort in their new surrounding. If you'd like a blankie please let us know and I can make one and have it ready for pick up. We suggest waiting on a collar until you have the puppy so that you can get the proper size.

17.) 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!

18.) What is micro-chipping?

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice. It consists of a tiny computer chip housed in a type of glass made to be compatible with living tissue. The microchip is implanted between the dog's shoulder blades under the skin with a needle and special syringe. The process is similar to getting a shot. Little to no pain is experienced - most dogs do not seem to even feel it being implanted. Once in place, the microchip can be detected immediately with a handheld device that uses radio waves to read the chip- what is called a 'scanner.' This device scans the microchip, and then displays a unique alphanumeric code. Once the microchip is placed, the dog must be registered with the microchip company, usually for a one-time fee. Then, the dog can be traced back to the owner if found. Our animals are micro-chipped and we feel it is a good, safe way to retrieve a lost or stolen animal. If your dog is 'chipped' places like shelters, vet, animal control can scan them, get your info, and then return your dog to you. We charge \$35 to micro-chip your puppy, so if interested please let us know.

A few nice websites to check out for help are:

<http://www.cockapooocrazy.com/>

www.purina.com

www.perfectpaws.com

www.dogtraininghq.com

www.peteducation.com

www.placervillevet.com

www.puppydogweb.com

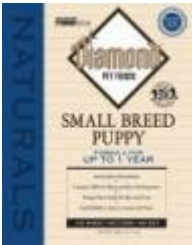
A good source for a book specifically about Cockapoos is:

<http://www.cockapooobook.com/>

Or just Google “preparing for a puppy” or “puppy training” there are thousands of sites out there! See a picture of an exercise pen below.



This is a canine exercise pen that we use to contain the puppies in the house and also in the yard. They are collapsible and you can open them so that each side can be hooked onto a crate so that the puppy can sleep in the crate and come out into the pen for exercise and going to the bathroom. They can be found in most pet stores and online.



This is what the bag will look like for Diamond Small Breed Puppy. If you visit their website at: <http://www.diamondpet.com> you can locate places that sell this food.

The following is information on Coccidia and Giardia, two intestinal parasites very common in puppies (and other animals) that often shows up after being stressed out by moving to a new home:

Please note that I am not a Veterinarian, the following paragraphs are just a mix of information I have obtained from personal experience, research done online, and through my veterinarian. If you suspect something is wrong with your puppy please call your vet for testing and information. Remember when getting a puppy or any other animal that they are a live being, animals can have and obtain germs which is why I am writing the following:

Information on Coccidiosis or Coccicia which is pronounced (Cox sid ee uh)

What is Coccidia: Coccidiosis is an intestinal parasite caused by microscopic organisms called Coccidia. Symptoms of the parasite include diarrhea that may be mild

to severe with signs of blood or mucous present in the stool as well. Affected animals may also vomit, lose their appetite or become dehydrated.

Coccidia is very common among many animal species (dogs, cats, bunnies, horses, etc.) it is thought that 30-60% of puppies have Coccidia in their stools at some time during their first few months of life. Some infected animals may never show signs of Coccidia while others have very visible symptoms. It should be mentioned that stress plays a major role in the development of Coccidia, which is why I have taken the time to write and post this on our website. Stress factors, such as when a puppy leaves its home, mother, and littermates can cause Coccidia to flourish and become active, which then can lead to Diarrhea. Different puppies react differently to the stress of a new home, some are completely fine, while others get a bit more upset which can cause the flare up. Because of this, not only do we give our pups a fecal exam before leaving our home, we also use preventable medications to avoid such problems when they do come home to you. Now this is not saying that our puppies are sick and the second you get them home they will have diarrhea, it's just a warning that it can happen and we want you to be informed so that your pup gets the proper care. We will never knowingly give anyone a sick puppy to take home, we strive to keep our animals happy and healthy, and because we are not a puppy mill we do not keep our dogs in raised up cages, they go outside, are in play groups, run in the grass, etc. thus have a possibility of being exposed to organisms. All of our puppies come fully vet checked with results of a fecal exam.

Coccidia can be carried by flies, rabbits, mice, cats, dogs, other animals, etc. So if your puppy runs through a yard with infected feces they can get it on their paw, lick their paw, and have Coccidia. If an adult dog is a carrier of Coccidia and goes to the bathroom near their pups it can easily be spread from one puppy to another. If a fly lands on infected feces, gets it on themselves, and then flies over and lands on one of our puppies playing outside, they can spread it, if you take your new puppy to a dog park, stop to take it out at a gas station on the way home to go potty, they can get it, even walking into the vet's office is a free ticket to get Coccidia. I could go on and on about how easy it is to pick up and spread it. Coccidia, as well as other germs/parasites are everywhere which is why we warn you to be careful about where you take your puppies until they are up to date on their vaccinations. If you speak to a breeder and ask them if they have ever had/dealt with Coccidia and they say "no" I would highly doubt they are telling the truth. No matter how clean you are, how much you bleach and disinfect Coccidia is hard to kill and easy to obtain.

Treatment of Coccidia:

There is no vaccination for Coccidia, just like you getting a cold or stomach flu, it's a 'bug' that just happens, even if you do everything in your power to pre-treat against it. The good thing about Coccidia is that, once detected, it's easily treatable. You as the owner need to be on top of how your puppy feels. If you notice your pup has diarrhea

you need to treat it immediately, if you let it go too long dehydration can begin and your puppy can go downhill very quickly. If you notice diarrhea you can give your pup unflavored yogurt, put clear, flavorless Pedialyte in their food/water, feed them rice with boiled, unseasoned chicken to calm down their system, and canned pumpkin can also be put in their food. Diarrhea doesn't instantly mean that the puppy has Coccidia but it's a good idea to notify your vet and see if a stool sample is necessary. We also strongly suggest if you're going to switch the puppie's food that you get a small bag of the brand we are feeding them to mix in with it. If you immediately switch their food w/out mixing you can cause major stomach problems. We feed Diamond Small Breed Puppy food, and although it cannot be found everywhere you can order it online. The website: <http://www.diamondpet.com> has a store locator right on the site to help you find and/or order the food. Just click where to buy and it will give you options.

If your puppy is suspected of having Coccidia your vet can do a simple fecal exam and then prescribe medications such as Albon or Corrid or another Sulfa based medication. Sometimes a puppy may need more than one round of meds, just depends on the situation. Early on in the infection it is possible to get a 'negative' result from a fecal exam just because there are not yet enough Coccidia eggs shed. A puppy may need to take more than one test over a period of days to make a proper diagnosis. We do pre-treat our pups with medications like Albon, Baycox, and Ponazuril to prevent this from happening in the first place, and will not let a puppy go home if we suspect it has Coccidia or diarrhea like symptoms! We also do fecal exams for Coccidial (and Giardia) before they are allowed to come home.

What is Giardia?

Giardiasis is an extremely common infection caused by the intestinal protozoa *giardia* that affects the digestive system of many animals including dogs and cats worldwide. Dogs become infected by ingesting the giardia cysts.

How can dogs come in contact with the cysts?

One way is from the environment. For example, if a dog gets feces with a giardia cyst on their paw and then steps in the community water bowl and another dog comes along and drinks the contaminated water with the infected animal feces in which the cyst form of giardia resides, that other dog will now become infected. Other sources of contaminated water include ponds, streams, puddles so if it rains out and the puppy goes outside to play and steps in a puddle there is a chance they can get infected. Giardia cysts may also exist in soil and grass where an infected animal has gone to the bathroom, for example a deer or bunny. Giardia cysts are extremely hardy - they can survive for weeks in the environment provided that it is damp and not too hot. So you can clean, and clean, and scrub and the cyst can still survive!

A dog can also swallow or ingest giardia cysts by coming into contact with another dog that is infected with giardia.

Once a giardia cyst is ingested by a dog, it makes its way to the dog's small intestine, where it opens up and releases the active form of the parasite which attaches itself to the

intestinal wall and begins to reproduce by cell division. Eventually, this parasite will encyst itself again and is passed outside via the feces of the dog. In North America, infection of Giardia in dogs has been reported at about 8%, with much higher levels in puppies (36% to 50%). Animals in shelters and kennels run a much higher risk of Giardiasis - up to 100%. So no matter how much of a clean freak you are it's still likely that an animal can be exposed to this cyst.

Dogs with Giardia infestations **sometimes show no symptoms at all**. If they do, symptoms usually show up after 7-10 days of ingestion.

Dogs who are more likely to show signs and symptoms are puppies, those who have other intestinal parasites such as worms, and those who have compromised immune systems. The symptoms are commonly associated with digestive disorders, such as:

- acute or chronic diarrhea;
- nausea;
- dehydration;
- weight loss;
- abnormal stools (pale, greasy-looking, bad odor).

Conventional treatment includes the use of medications such as Metronidazole (Flagyl), Fenbendazole, Albendazole, and Quanacrine.

Metronidazole is most commonly prescribed and has two interesting properties--the action is largely confined to the gut and it also seems to stimulate the local immune system. Metronidazole kills off the giardia and reduces the numbers to the level the dog's immune system can handle. We purchase the Metronidazole tablets from from Lambert Vet Supply without a prescription and for a lot less money. Veterinarians often charge way more for a small amount of this medication which can be bought right over the counter at pet stores and online retail pet supply dealers. You can also buy a product called FISH-ZOLE which is simply the prescription Metronidazole (Rx) bottled and labeled for fish tank use. Again, we are not veterinarians, so please discuss things with your vet before you medicate your puppy. We are just trying to get some info out there so you know a little bit more about how to deal with a puppy if they become infected. We do fecal exams on our puppies for both Coccidia and Giardia before they come home so we can be sure they are healthy!

Please remember I am not a Veterinarian, the above paragraphs are just a mix of information I have obtained from personal experience, research done online, and through my veterinarian. If you suspect something is wrong with your puppy please call your vet for testing and information.

