

# 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!!

## **First of all, what is a Cockapoo?**

I found and partially copied a nice article online that describes the breed pretty well: As you would think from the name - a Cockapoo is a cross between a cocker spaniel and a poodle. Cockapoos have been recognized by the American people as a very special cross since about 1960.

Cockapoos can be any size from the smallest poodle in the poodle's recent pedigree to the largest cocker in the cocker's recent pedigree, to potentially a little larger due to hybrid vigor. Thus, if the poodle is the biggest poodle in the litter but the genes carry smaller it is possible to get something smaller than either parent. This is not normally the case but it could happen. Of course, the same goes for the other end of the scale. The national average by poll of 500 Cockapoo owners was 15lbs, this reflecting the usual use of a toy poodle at 8 lbs and an average cocker spaniel at 22 lbs. A teacup poodle and a toy cocker could produce a 2 lb Cockapoo, while a standard poodle and large cocker have produced a 65 pound Cockapoo.

Cockapoos will almost always show strong characteristics of both parents. They could lean a little to poodle or a little to cocker. Some may be a little curlier and some may have blockier heads but they definitely show both parents in a unique way that is what gives cockapoos such a special look, but it is highly unlikely they would inherit a predominance of genes from either parent. Second generation has the highest incidence of pups that will lean more to the looks of either parent breed. This does not make 2nd generation bad – just something to be aware of. By 3rd generation very few if any throwbacks are seen just as in 1st generation and 4th generation on this almost never happens.

In getting the best of both worlds Cockapoos acquire a keen intelligence, more from the poodle (which has consistently ranked among the world's smartest dogs) than from the cocker (which is not a criticism, but cockers are not noted for high intelligence). Cockapoos get some sturdiness from the cocker - as cockers have heavier bone structure. The cocker also contributes a laid back attitude towards life as well as considerable 'sweetness' as long as the breeder has chosen both parents based on temperament in addition to the important factors of looks and genetic soundness. The hair coat of the Cockapoo tends to be wavy but not as tightly curled neither as the poodle nor absolutely straight like some cockers. Poodles are noted for longevity as are

hybrids giving the Cockapoo a double dose of longevity. (Average life expectancy by poll appears to be 15 to 18 years.)

The indeterminate hair type of the poodle (continuous growth of approximately ½ inch a month) contributes the low to no shedding characteristic to the Cockapoo, while the cocker adds some silkiness. The resulting hair type is also very low allergenic - without an undercoat producing excess dander.

Cockapoos are noted for their wonderful dispositions and great tolerance of the indiscretions of children, with a very forgiving nature.

Thus, for people wanting a low to no odor and low to no shedding, highly intelligent dog that is easy to train and absolutely wonderful for children of all ages, playful and energetic but easy to care for, and that will be around for a while, the ideal dog is the Cockapoo.

A Cockapoo is exactly what it sounds like 1/2 cocker spaniel and 1/2 poodle. It is not a mutt but a hybrid. A mutt can be anything that had canine parentage. A hybrid is a cross between two known entities. A breed is formed through careful record keeping over the generations until a certain ideal is well established and reproducing or breeding true.

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### **First or Beyond Generation Cockapoo?**

Most Cockapoos you see are first generation (that is, a Cocker and Poodle cross (this is called F1), but there are increasing numbers of second and even third (any generation after first is breeding Cockapoo to Cockapoo). Breeding Cockapoo to Cockapoo is increasing as the hybrid endures and breeders continue to develop it. Breeding down through the generations helps to stabilize size and looks, with size the more important factor. For example, an 8 lb poodle and a 25 lb cocker could produce 8 to perhaps 30 lb pups (hybrid vigor can increase size as well as factoring in anything in the recent bloodline of either parent ). The 2nd generation (F2) can have the "grandfather effect", producing more of the original poodle or cocker in looks. By the 3rd generation (F3) things start to stabilize in size and looks. F2's and beyond can have more color variation as the mix of color genes becomes stronger. By F7 a breed is basically established to minimal variation and is arguably (both scientifically and within the dog fancy) a breed.

As a Cockapoo puppy buyer you should be more concerned with the characteristics of the individual dog than the generation. There can be some variation in any generation but if you let your breeder know what it is you are looking for in a pup they can help you select the best pup for your family. No matter the generation, as long as health, temperament and looks (which is the entire package that makes the dog) -are paid attention to, you should be fine. Let the breeders worry about breeding the generations for

science and what have you - and as an owner concentrate on choosing the best dog for your family. People getting hung up on the "perfect" specimen for any breed is what pushed so many of the known breeds into the problems they have now with health and temperament due to inbreeding - these are the things that we are working so hard to avoid in the development of the Cockapoo. Just as you would not worry about what generation a cocker or poodle or any other now-known breed is if you were to choose a puppy, you shouldn't be worrying about it now as a Cockapoo owner or would-be owner; the prime concern should be the best dog for you and your family.

**We often get asked if Cockapoos are really non-shedding and hypo-allergenic because a lot of people interested in them have allergies or asthma.** One major reason they are such a popular breed is because most people don't have allergy or asthma problems with them. The majority of people that adopt from us have a family member that is allergic to dogs and we constantly get reports that they are fine with their Cockapoos, no hair all over, no asthma problems, and finally no allergies!! This doesn't mean that the Cockapoo doesn't lose a single hair, they do and there can be some light shedding but they will not leave your house full of hair. This also doesn't guarantee that someone out there isn't allergic to them, anything can happen, but people will tell you over and over that they are great for those who have allergy problems. If this is a big concern for you please try to meet and spend some time with a Cockapoo before adopting to be sure that they will work out for you as we do not offer a guarantee against allergies. Be sure to go to a home/area that doesn't have other pets that will affect you either so that you don't wrongfully blame it on the Cockapoo.

### **Basic info about us and 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 raising the puppies at our home. We have a 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 for the deposit and balance due?

To officially adopt a puppy we require a \$300, non-refundable deposit, in the form of a personal check, money order, cashier's check or cash. We can take credit cards or debit cards using the "Buy Now" button on the site through Paypal but there is a fee associated with using it. Please understand that our deposits are for one, specific puppy, we do not refund them or transfer them if you later see a different puppy you like better. We also do

not give you a 'credit' towards a different puppy if you back out on the one you originally reserved. Please do not send a deposit for a puppy if you are not 100% sure you want them. It is very important to us that we find them homes and we take it very seriously when you reserve one. If you change your mind or back out for some reason you will lose your deposit! For the balance we will take cash, money orders, or cashier's checks only, no personal checks, wire transfers, or Paypal transactions. Please understand that we reserve the right to cancel a contract if we later decide that you're not a good match for our puppy by returning half of your deposit. Deposits are Non-Refundable so please make sure you are ready and able to get a puppy before you send one.

We have had people change their minds or back out after reserving a puppy with a deposit, we realize things happen, but please understand that the deposit is non-refundable and we do not transfer it to another puppy or offer a credit for later use. If you have backed out on a puppy with us in the past and later come back for a different puppy we will require full payment from you right away, not just a deposit, to reserve the puppy.

If you are keeping your puppy here past their 'go home date', with our permission, there is a boarding fee of \$20 per day and we require full payment by the age of 8 weeks.

### 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! Some good questions to ask yourself before you adopt, to be sure you are ready are:

#### **Questions for All Adopters:**

- Do you have any other pets and how will they react to a new pet?
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- Is your current residence suited to the pet you're considering?
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- How will your social life or work obligations affect your ability to care for a pet?
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- Do you have a plan for your new pet during vacations and/or work travel?
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- How do the people you live with feel about having a pet in the house?
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- Are you (or your spouse, partner or roommate) intolerant of hair, dirt and other realities of sharing your home with a pet, such as allergies?
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- Do you or any of your household/family members have health issues that may be affected by a pet?
- Is there tension in the home? Pets quickly pick up on stress in the home, and it can exacerbate their health and behavior problems.

- Is there an adult in the family who has agreed to be ultimately responsible for the pet's care?

### **Other Considerations:**

- What do you expect your pet to contribute to your life? For example, do you want a running and hiking buddy, or is your idea of exercise watching it on TV?
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- If you are thinking of adopting a young animal, do you have the time and patience to work with the pet through its adolescence, taking house-breaking, chewing and energy-level into account?
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- Have you considered your lifestyle carefully and determined whether a younger or older animal would be a better match for you?
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- Can you train and handle a pet with behavior issues or are you looking for an easy-going friend?
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- Do you need a pet who will be reliable with children or one you can take with you when you travel?
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- Do you want a pet who follows you all around the house or would you prefer a less clingy, more independent character?

### **Size Considerations:**

- What size dog can your home accommodate?
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- Will you have enough room if your dog grows to be bigger than expected?
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- What size pet would suit the other people who live in or visit your home regularly?
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- Do you have another pet to consider when choosing the size of your next pet?

4.) Can we reserve a puppy in advance with a deposit?

Yes, we do accept deposits in advance for a puppy. Say you're wanting a specific color and sex combination or just want one in the future and want to be sure you get a chance that is what we take advanced deposits for. Please understand we do not take them for specific litters! How it works is, for example, you call and want to reserve a black female

in advance, I will give you our info to send a deposit, email you a receipt when I receive it and then I will contact you as soon as one is born. If you're the first to reserve a black female on the list then you will know about her before anyone else and I will then give you the chance, before I put her online, to claim her as yours. Your deposit will then be put towards the purchase price of that specific puppy. Say a Black Female is born but you're not ready, that's fine, I will then contact you when another arrives. Or say a Black Female is born but you want to watch her grow a bit, that is fine as well but please be aware that I will post her online and make her available for the public to adopt, we do not hold litters back so that you can think on it or watch them grow, that takes away their chances of finding a home in a timely manner. Or if another person has submitted a deposit for the same color/sex I will then offer her to them, etc. I contact everyone by order of deposits received. So you are free to wait as long as you want to officially adopt a puppy with the understanding you will know about them before anyone else but we will then post them a day or two after notifying you about them. If you don't have a specific color or sex in mind and send a deposit you are free to just call or email us when you see one you like and I will then apply your deposit to their purchase price. Please realize that we are unable to predict what will be born when. If you put down a deposit and, for example, specifically want a Red Female ready in June I will contact you as soon as one is born as close to that time range as I can get but I cannot 100% guarantee one will be available at the exact time you want them, that is out of our control. Our dogs have a ton of beautiful color in their backgrounds so we never know what colors we are going to get until the puppies are born. We do not take deposits for specific litters because, again, we don't know what colors and sex we will get. We also do not take deposits based on eye color, it takes several weeks for their eyes to open and at first they are a cloudy, blue/gray color and eventually change to their permanent color so we don't have a way of knowing in advance what they will turn out to be. If you are very, very specific about timing, color, coat, and/or eye color combinations it may be better to just wait and see what is born.

I do not post information about the parents in advance because I don't like to get ahead of myself just in case there is a false pregnancy or birthing issues and I don't want families to focus on getting a puppy from one specific litter just in case they don't get that chance. Once the babies are born I will gladly send you pictures and information on who the parents are.

#### 5.) Is shipping dangerous or stressful?

**\*\*Due to the Corona Virus and suspension of Pet Travel programs, we are currently not offering shipping\*\*** People that want to fly here and back with a puppy will need to book a flight with an airline that allows pets onboard at 8 weeks old.

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 Delta, American, or United airlines anywhere in the Continental U.S. If you live in Canada you will need to pick up your puppy at the closest U.S. airport and pick them up there. There is an additional fee for shipping which is based on the airlines flight cost, the cost for a crate, and health certificates from the vet. Flight times are based on the airlines schedules and vary throughout the year. With Delta we cannot book a flight until 13 days in advance so we won't have any travel information until that time, with United we can arrange a flight right away and give you the details as soon as we have them. Unless you are having your puppy directly shipped to a layover point (Minneapolis, Detroit, or Atlanta) they will have a layover during their trip. Please note the crate that the puppy arrives in is a travel crate only, it is not to be used as a training crate! I usually ship a puppy the day they turn 8 weeks old unless there is not a flight available. If you are unavailable to receive them that day I do charge a boarding fee of \$20 per day to keep them here longer. For more information on shipping here is a link to an article on my blog:  
<http://cutecockapoosinwisconsin.blogspot.com/2016/02/how-we-ship-our-cockapoo-puppies.html>

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

Our pups are first generation Cockapoos (F1 & F1b.) 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 16-22 pounds but that can vary. You need to remember that puppies can take on traits of relatives within their bloodlines so mom may be large but grandma could have been small and the baby can take after someone other than their parent, it's all up to genetics. 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, we spend our days 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 the 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.) Do you dock the puppies tail or remove dew claws?

We do not dock tails or remove dew claws, 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. Over and over again we have had people try to change our minds about tail docking by offering to pay extra if we will do it and the answer still stays the same: NO, we do not dock tails, nor do we remove dew claws, even if you offer to pay for it.

11.) 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. When I post a puppy online I post the date they are ready to be picked up and also the date they are ready to be shipped. I prefer that you make time in your schedule to receive your puppy the day that they are ready but I do allow a 2 day grace period for pickups before I charge a boarding fee. For example, if your puppy is ready to be picked up on March 10<sup>th</sup> you will have until March 12<sup>th</sup> to pick them up before I charge a boarding fee. If you are not able to pick up your puppy within the two day grace period I charge a boarding fee of \$20 per day. Puppies are shipped at 8 weeks old and I plan to ship them on the date I have posted online unless there are not any flights available. If you are not willing or unable to pick up your puppy from the airport on the date that they turn 8 weeks I do charge a boarding fee of \$20 per day after they turn 8 weeks old. Buyers will also be responsible for board and any additional vaccinations/medical care the puppy needs after the age of 8 weeks. Per Wisconsin State Law puppies cannot go home until they are exactly 7 weeks old, so if your puppy turns 7 weeks on a Monday you can't pick them up the Sunday before, sorry, we've been asked that a lot and we are not willing to let them leave until they are the correct, legal age. I do post the date that the puppies are available to leave on the website with their other information so please keep that in mind when planning your schedules so that you have a day open to come and get them on time. I am available for pickups Mon-Fri, generally from 10am-6pm by appointment and generally on Saturdays from 10am-1pm all by appointment, no Sundays please.

12.) Can we see the puppies in person before we adopt?

We do not allow visits before the puppies are ready to be picked up. If someone came here with a virus/germs on their clothes, hands, shoes they could potentially wipe out an entire litter and we don't want to take that risk. Please read the article on my blog about puppy visits:

<http://cutecockapoosinwisconsin.blogspot.com/2016/01/visiting-our-cockapoo-puppies.html>

13.) If we adopt a puppy at a young age can we come and visit them?

Due to the potential risks of spreading germs and diseases to our animals we do not allow visits before the puppies are picked up. It is very important to us to keep our puppies safe and healthy and we don't want to accidentally expose them to germs or viruses people may be carrying on their clothes, shoes, hands, etc. Here is an article explaining my policies on puppy visits:

<http://cutecockapoosinwisconsin.blogspot.com/2016/01/visiting-our-cockapoo-puppies.html>

14.) What is micro-chipping?

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice that 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. When you pick up your puppy we will give you information on how to register your information with the microchip company, if you are having your puppy shipped the form will be in an envelope on top of the crate. It is vital that you fill out this form and send it in, if you do not register the chip and your puppy is lost or stolen no one will know who owns them. We use Avid Microchips: [www.avidid.com](http://www.avidid.com) or (800) 336-2843.

15.) Will you send us photos of our puppy once we adopt one?

Yes, I do send new photos 2-3 times before your puppy comes home. I spread them out a few weeks apart so you can see them grow. Please do me a favor and trust that I will send them to you, no need to send me emails asking for photos, I will not forget about you. I realize that you are all excited but my main goal is to dedicate my time to raising your puppy and taking care of the parents. This job is a lot of work and I often have several customers at one time so I have to use my time wisely. Taking puppy pictures is one of the hardest parts of my job because they are puppies and rarely will sit still for a picture! I promise I will send photos and will not forget about you :) I do occasionally post videos of a litter on our Facebook page and will notify you if I do. I don't do it for every litter and I don't send individual videos to people.

## **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 when I receive them?

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 and 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, microchipped, 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. **If you are having your puppy shipped there will be an envelope taped to the top of the crate with all of the health records/paperwork in it, please be sure to not throw it away!**

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.) How often do we bathe them?

You can give them a bath whenever you feel it's necessary. There is no particular schedule that you need to be on to keep them clean. I do recommend natural shampoos, if you visit the NuVet website at: [www.nuvet.com](http://www.nuvet.com) they do have puppy shampoos and oatmeal based shampoos that I would recommend. If you purchase from their website you do need an ID Code which is 65553.

6.) Do you suggest a certain type of brush? How often do we groom them?

Cockapoo's coats are generally soft and silky so I don't suggest a particular brush. We pretty much use all different types without any problems and you can brush them as often as you'd like. They are also not a high maintenance dog when it comes to their coats and grooming. Because they don't shed it is important to cut their hair shorter in warmer months but you can let it grow longer in colder months as well. You can choose to take them to a groomer or you can also do it yourself at home with a scissors or an electric clipper that can be found at most common stores.

7.) Are the pups house trained?

The pups are not house trained but we do take them outside frequently and also use potty pads inside. 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 along with a canine exercise pen.

8.) Do I have suggestions for Potty training?

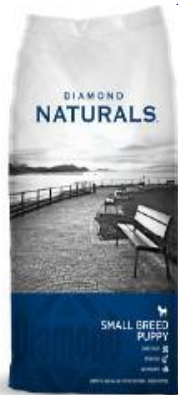
This is one of the most frequently asked questions! Cockapoos are incredibly smart and catch on fast to training. My suggestion for potty training is to take your puppy out to the same spot in the yard and make a big deal out of it when they "go." (Yay, good puppy, good job, you went potty, good boy!!) 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! I know a lot of books talk about crate training but I do not agree with putting them in a tiny crate to prevent them from going potty. Puppies do not have strong bladders and if they have to go they will, if they are in a tiny crate this will cause them to go on themselves and their beds. I strongly suggest a larger crate or an exercise pen (pictured below) with potty pads.

9.) 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!!!

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

We feed Diamond Naturals 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! **If you are getting your puppy shipped please do not wait until the last minute to buy the food. Common stores like Petco and Petsmart do NOT sell it so you may need to look around a bit to find a store that sells it or even order it online. It is important to have it when you receive your puppy.**



We also suggest using NuVet Vitamins for your puppy. Puppies/young animals have a weakened immune system and a vitamin supplement will help protect them from free radicals in their environment. NuVet Vitamins are a natural, human grade product that is safe for use in both dogs and cats. There is more information on the NuVet Vitamin page of our website. This product cannot be found at any stores and you must have an ID code to purchase it. You can also visit their website at: [www.nuvet.com/65553](http://www.nuvet.com/65553) or call (800)

474-7044 for more information and to purchase their products. The ID Code you will need for purchase is: 65553. I will also have brochures to give you when you pick up your puppy.



11.) Do they have a favorite treat?

It may sound gross, but we give the babies natural products like bully sticks, hooves, yak chews, esophagus, beef sticks, etc. They are a natural treat that's great for teething and keeps them entertained. We also do give Eukanuba or Iams bones to snack on or Greenies, 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. Natural, animal products are the best (pig ears, hooves, bully sticks, etc.)

12.) 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. I know a lot of books recommend placing your puppy in a crate that you can divide to make small so that they do not use the bathroom, I do not agree with this. Puppy's bladders are weak and if they have to go they will. When confined in a small space this may cause them to 'go' on themselves or their bedding, which is not what they want to do. If you are crate training I suggest a bigger crate where they can have a bed area and then a spot for potty pads.

13.) 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. If you are having your puppy shipped the crate they come in is for travel purposes only, it is not to be used for crate training. A nice pillow/bed is a 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. Kong Balls, Nobby Wobbly balls, rope toys, and 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 or send it home in the crate when they are shipped to you. Snuggle Puppies are also really nice, they are a stuffed animal with a heart beat that you can also heat up and put in bed with your puppy so that they don't feel so alone, they can be found online. We use Snuggle Safe heat discs that you can heat up in the microwave and put in bed with the puppy to keep them warm and not feel so alone as well, they can also be found online. For a collar we suggest waiting until you have the puppy so that you can get the proper size and we do have some here available for purchase. I have a shopping checklist printed below.

#### 14.) 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!

Be sure to have food, bedding, toys, vitamins and other necessary products ordered and home before the puppy arrives. Discuss their arrival with your children so that you can all be on the same page about the puppies care and training. If you have small children make sure they are supervised at all times with a puppy. Don't let small children hold the puppy when they are standing if you think they may drop it, set rules about how they can be handled and played with. Read a book about puppy training, enroll in puppy training classes, they teach you as well as the puppy at the same time.

- **Pet Costs:**

- Your pet will need to be spayed or neutered by the age of 4-6 months old.
- Some expenses are mandatory for all pets, including:
  - Food

- Routine veterinary care
- Licensing according to local regulations
- Collars, leashes and identification tags
- Basic grooming equipment and supplies.

Other expenditures may not be required but are highly recommended:

- Permanent identification, such as a microchip, some of our puppies automatically come chipped if they are similar to their litter mates but we do offer it for all puppies for \$35.
- Training classes
- Additional grooming supplies or professional grooming (depending on your new pet's needs)
- A spare collar or leash
- A bed and toys
- A crate or carrier

Unexpected costs: Accidents and illness can result in costly emergency veterinary care. Recovery tools for finding a missing pet can include posters and rewards.

- A pet with special physical or behavioral challenges may require specialized professional support to overcome any obstacles these issues present.

### **Time Considerations:**

- Pets need to be fed two to three times a day if you put them on a schedule (we feed free choice,) more often in the case of puppies, and need a constant supply of fresh water.
- 
- A responsible pet parent should spend at least one hour per day giving direct attention to his or her pet. This may include training, exercising, grooming, and playing or may just be lap time on the couch. Dogs will need to be taken out to potty several times a day.
- 
- A pet with an abundance of energy needs more time to exercise and interactive toys to keep them entertained.
- 

### **Shopping Checklist**

- **Necessary Items for Dogs:**
  - 
  - Food and water bowls
  - Food- Diamond Small Breed Puppy



- Collar
- Four to six-foot leash
- ID tag with your phone number
- Hard plastic carrier or foldable metal crate
- Dog bed
- Doggy shampoo and conditioner
- Nail clippers
- Canine toothbrush and toothpaste (optional)
- Brush or comb
- Super-absorbent paper towels
- Sponge and scrub brush for accidents
- Non-toxic cleanser for accidents
- Enzymatic odor neutralizer for accidents
- Plastic poop baggies (biodegradable ones are best) or pooper scooper
- Absorbent house-training pads
- Variety of toys (a ball, rope, chew toy and puzzle toy are good starts)
- Variety of treats (such as small greenies, roasted pig ears etc.)
- First-aid supplies
- Baby gate(s) or a canine exercise pen
- Snuggle puppy or snuggle safe (optional)
- NuVet Vitamins (please see the NuVet page on our site for ordering info.)

A few nice websites to check out for help are:

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

[www.purina.com](http://www.purina.com)

[www.perfectpaws.com](http://www.perfectpaws.com)

[www.dogtraininghq.com](http://www.dogtraininghq.com)

[www.peteducation.com](http://www.peteducation.com)

[www.placervillevet.com](http://www.placervillevet.com)

[www.puppydogweb.com](http://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.



Pictured above 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.



Pictured above is the food we use, Diamond Small Breed Puppy. You can visit their website at: <http://www.diamondpet.com> and click on "Store Locator" to find places that sell it.

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 Coccidia 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, we use a preventable medication to help 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.

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 pure canned pumpkin (not pie filling,) 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 brand of 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.

## **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 do treat our puppies with Panacur (Fenbendazole) for several days before they go home to prevent Giardia but that is not a guarantee that they won't have it. I feel it's important for the puppies to get outside and explore and therefore parasites are always possible.

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.