

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When are puppies from our litter expected?

The first thing to consider: Has the pair had a successful breeding? We cannot start any sort of official clock until breeding has occurred. Once breeding occurs, we notify everyone on the reservation list within a few days with projected dates for puppy arrival, 6 week picks, 8 week going home, and Trained going home. Please use this helpful guide when calculating on your own:

- Breeding Day—**Day ZERO**
- DUE (Arrival can be +/- 5 days from this date)-**Day 63/Week**
- 6 week visitation-**Day 105/Week 15**
- 8 week going home-**Day 119/Week 17**
- Trained going home-**Day 140/Week 20**

We all like to plan! As you can see from the timing above, we can only provide you with a 20-week planning guide. Before Breeding Day, all our estimates are just that, an estimate based on your girl's history. We track everything, so we know when to project, but our projections are usually based on a season or a one-to-three-month window (i.e. "April to May" or "Spring of ____"). Once a girl has a litter, we will project when her next season will be, but we are only basing that on what she has done in the past. Sometimes seasons come VERY early; sometimes they come VERY late. If we could control them...well, we'd be doing more than breeding dogs with that hidden talent!

We are often asked about planning for vacation during the season your puppies are expected. We wish we could provide you with more certainty, but if we have not had a breeding, we cannot give you anything more than our informed projections. We recommend planning vacations according to the 17-to-20 week guide. Has your girl bred yet? If she has NOT, you have at least 4 months to get a vacation in before you must think about bringing home a puppy. If she has, the clock is ticking!

If you must make plans further out than 4 months, we recommend finding a back-up plan for your puppy who may be very young. If you cannot take your puppy with you, you will need to consider either a private sitter or family member to care for your puppy. Most kennels do not take puppies younger than 6 months of age.



What type/size crate should I buy?

1. Crates are valuable tools for your puppy in the early months. They provide:
 - Better consistency making it through the night
 - Safe place for your puppy when you have to leave for up to 3-4 hours
 - Haven for your puppy to rest/play if household gets crazy!
2. We recommend metal crates, which enable the puppy to see all around! Amazon has a great selection with a varying price range.
 - Life Stages, is a quality brand at a reasonable cost.
 - Sizes: Purchase a crate large enough for your dog when he is 75% to 100% full grown.
 - o Mini doodle -24” or 30”
 - o Medium doodle - 36”
 - o Standard doodle - 42” or 48’

What type of bed do you recommend?

While puppy is still small and crate training, we recommend a Sherpa bed (Amazon) that will fit in the front half of the crate. Divide the crate so that your puppy occupies only a small area during their training phase.

After the puppy is trained, and sleeping elsewhere in the house, it is completely up to your preference!

Can I send you something for the whelping box/crate that the puppy can sleep with, that will have mama’s smell to aid in his transition to his new home?

We recommend buying a puppy blanket (Amazon is great!) and either shipping it to us or if you live close, just bring it to the 6 week visit!

What leash/harness do you recommend?

We will be sending puppy home with a collar and leash to begin your journey.

We do recommend a harness at the beginning, especially for the tiny mini puppies, so



there is no risk of pulling out of the collar. It's a good idea to wait on purchase until you can carry the puppy into the pet store for a proper size fitting.

What puppy toys should I buy?

- Rubber chew toys
- Stuffed fabric toys with squeakers, but keep an eye on these. We always remove this when the puppy gets destructive. Each dog is different, some just want to carry around a small toy, while others want to destroy it and get the squeaker out immediately. You will need to test toys out and see which last longest with your dog. Even the most aggressive chewers can destroy toys which claim to be "indestructible!"
- Balls
- Tug toys--and tug with them. Tug toys help with teething, so if you notice your puppy is being more destructive than usual; play some tug of war with him. He may just need to get some pressure on a baby tooth to help it come out.
- Stuff-able toys (these are best filled with yummy treats and left in the crate when you leave) Great for puppies that exhibit separation anxiety
- Food-filled toys (filled with food or yummy treats and left in the crate when you leave--small portion, if you are going to be away for several hours.) Or, just fill it with their daily portion of food and let them self-feed if you are home for the day. Mind the potty breaks, though! This may be better when your puppy is on a good potty schedule (around 6 or 7 months.)
- Puzzle toys--especially if you do not have children in your home or another dog. Puzzle toys give your dog something they have to accomplish. You can even hide NuVet vitamins (broken in pieces) in one every day. This sort of activity will help stimulate them in ways that can even deter chewing.

What treats/bones are safe and appropriate?

- Pepperoni sticks (We break them into pieces for training.)
- Bully sticks
- Elk antlers (not deer antlers) These bring hours of enjoyment!
- **WARNING! DO NOT buy rawhide bones/chew treats!! They are not easily digestible and can cause throat cancer and blockage in the intestines!!!**

What brand of puppy/dog food do you use?

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We highly recommend TLC Whole life pet food. Your puppy and your puppy's mom have been fed this nutritious chow while they are with us. It's an excellent mixture of everything puppy needs with the added benefit of live pro-biotic cultures.

- What should I set the Auto-ship to?
 - Simply use the link to save \$5 on your first order and set-up Auto-ship.
 - TLC comes in 2 qty 15# bags, so you don't have to worry about freshness!
 - Miniatures will probably need a new order of food every 7 to 9 weeks.
 - Mediums will probably need a new order of food every 6 to 8 weeks.
 - Standards will probably need a new order of food every 5 to 7 weeks.



What types of food/water bowls should I buy?

- Stainless steel bowls that are in some kind of holder—especially for the puppy that likes to dig in the water!
- Heavier ceramic bowls that won't easily slide around

What grooming tools do you recommend, and how often should I brush?

- A good metal comb
- 2-sided brush
- Dematting tool (areas that matt quickly are behind the ears, behind the elbows/knees and around the paw)
- Electric clippers if you want to give grooming a try.
 - http://royaldiamondlabradoodles.com/grooming_videos
 - This site will provide valuable tips on grooming if you want to DIY or even when you need to stretch from one grooming to the next. A great way to stretch is to learn the basics of face trimming! Trim the face and it looks like your entire dog was groomed.



- Brushing weekly is wonderful! It is also a GREAT bonding time for you and your puppy!

What is the process for selecting my puppy?

We will schedule a 6 week visitation on a Saturday a few days before or after your puppy turns 6 weeks of age. We will schedule your visitation time in order of your picks; first picks will come first thing in the morning, second pick, arrives 30 minutes later, and so on to the final pick of the litter. We ask you to arrive on time and arrive with a narrow list of puppies you are interested in visiting with. You will be able to take the 30 minute window of time to play with puppies and see how they interact with others. Ask us questions if you have any prepared. We will ask you to make your selection at the end of that visitation time and then, if you would like to stay longer and play, you are welcome to do so.

What if I cannot make the visitation time?

While we would love to accommodate every soccer tournament, rugby match and vacation that conflicts with our pre-scheduled visitations, it is 1.) Impossible for our own schedules, and 2.) Not the best scenario for the puppies. We are not a kennel, as such, and that means our puppies live in homes with their mother and family members. Visitations, home goings and trained pup home goings all take a coordinated effort on the parts of SEVERAL people to make happen. If you are unable to come on your scheduled visitation day, we are truly sorry, but a re-scheduled visitation is not something we offer.

What should I plan to bring to the 6 week visitation?

- Camera! Yes, you are welcome to take and post pictures as you wish!!!
- Final Payment, if you have not already mailed it in or paid online.
- Blanket or Toy WITH NAME ON IT for your puppy to take home at 8/11 weeks.

What payments do I need to make and when are they due?

1. Deposits are due in order to reserve your place on the reservation list.
2. When your litter has been born, we will invoice you all of your payments:



- First Payment (1/2 of your remaining balance): Due when your puppy is 4 weeks of age.
 - Second Payment (Remaining Balance): Due when your puppy is 6 weeks of age.
 - Training Payment: Due when your puppy is 8 weeks of age, if applicable.
3. No puppy may leave if a client owes a remaining balance. All payments must be cleared by pick-up day or remaining balance must be paid in cash or cashier check.

When does a trained puppy come home and what should we expect him to be able to do?

1. We will provide a calendar for your litter within the first week of birth that gives you all the dates that pertain to visitation and going home of your litter. Puppies being held back for training are transferred to Puppy Kindergarten with our trainer at or around the age of 8 weeks. Puppies attend training for a full 3 weeks. Trained puppies go home on your litter's "Trained Puppy Going Home" scheduled day. Please reference emails to your litter for that information.
2. Trained puppies have been working very hard on the following:
 - Night-time crate training-By the time they go home, they have been sleeping alone in a crate through the night. We will let you know of any patterns of accidents we notice, but most have mastered this skill by going-home day.
 - Day-time crate training-By the time they go home, they have been able to be in a crate for up to 3 or 4 hours. We will let you know of any patterns of accidents we notice, but most have mastered this skill by going-home day.
 - Leash walking-Puppies have been consistently walked throughout the day. We will provide you with the times they are used to walking and the expectation for pee and/or poop on these walks. Your puppy will be very familiar with a leash.
 - Free-range training-Your puppy has had hours of time that they have been able to be in his trainer's home "Free-range" meaning outside of his crate and play area. This has taken hours of work and it is not an "all day" arrangement. Each puppy has his capacity for this training and you will be informed of how your puppy is doing.

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- Command Training-Our trainer has introduced and worked with each puppy with the following commands:
 - Sit
 - Stay
 - Come
 - Commands Continued-Each puppy has his strengths in each of the above areas. You will be informed at going home day of areas your puppy excels and areas you are going to need to work harder at.
3. Trained puppies will still be puppies! Please be prepared to continue to train by heeding the following notes.
- Do not allow your puppy to have “free-range” of your entire house right away— even trained puppies. Instincts inform all dogs and a quick explanation of this may benefit you for years to come. Your puppy instinctively knows not to poop or pee in his “den”. It is amazing to watch 4 day old puppies squirm away from the puppy pile to a corner of the box to do their business. Mom does not nose them away to do this, instinct has wired them to be able to do this un-taught. For several weeks, our trainer has defined the den for these puppies as her home. So, when you take your trained puppy home, it’s going to be confusing to the little guy. “Where do I pee?” You need to keep your puppy in a small area for a few days while you teach your puppy the boundaries of your home. Start in the kitchen perhaps and slowly expand when your puppy *earns a larger area till they are fully trained. Many times, if a puppy is given an entire house, he mistakes a part of the house as “outside the den” and that is very hard to re-program. Never give your puppy a new area of freedom till you are comfortable with his mastery of the previous area.
 - Command training takes months to master. As puppies grow and learn, sometimes they become smart to training and they may want a treat to obey. That’s not a problem, but the goal is obedience without a treat.
 - Trained puppies are still going to chew on things they should not. They will seek out shoes, socks, toys, tissues, papers, books, remotes, CD’s, sunglasses—not that I have experienced this... I tell clients the best thing I did for teaching my kids to pick-up their belongings was to purchase a puppy! Training extends from the puppy to the family! Enjoy it all!



BUYING GUIDE

We have created a list on Amazon which features all the items we mentioned above and many more. We do not benefit from any of your purchases. But, we have used many of these items and felt it may save you some time! MAKE SURE TO SORT THIS LIST BY “Purchased AND Unpurchased” to be able to view ALL items.

<http://a.co/gV8aBbv>

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