

# ARROWHEAD AUSTRALIAN LABRADOODLES

## Puppy Information Packet

Congratulations on your decision to bring a new family member home! Labradoodles are wonderful pets who are happiest when they are with their family. I hope you enjoy your doodle!!!

### Preparing for your Puppy

We ask that everyone purchase and participate in the Online Puppy School provided by BAXTER & Bella. Use code ARROWHEAD to save 25%! This program is located here:  
<https://youtu.be/VdbrmycYiNM>

Having a schedule and sticking to it is one of the best things you can do for your puppy. The puppy will begin to sleep less and play more, so adjust your schedule as needed. Determine who is responsible for what...food, water, playtime, training, pooper scooper duty, clean up duty for accidents and grooming.

It is time to pick a name (& let me know prior to picking up your puppy), find a vet, puppy proof your home, put in a fence (physical or electric), order a name tag, buy food & water dishes, buy a bag of puppy food, buy a leash, crate and toys, decide if you want insurance, and find a puppy class and playgroup.

I am feeding your puppies *Hi Point Zero – Purple Bag*. You can order it by going to the link listed in the supply chart below. I would suggest staying with this food for at least a year during their stress of moving. If you do change foods, make sure to do it slowly...over a week or so. I would recommend any of the other foods that I have listed at alternatives as well. Take a look at this website periodically...they are excellent in communicating dog food recalls.  
[www.truthaboutpetfood.com](http://www.truthaboutpetfood.com)

Please also be sure to order your supplements at this link: <http://www.nuvetlabs.com/354762>

### Birth Announcement

You will be contacted with a birth announcement for the litter you choose when I have an application & deposit on file.

## Payment Schedule

Our puppy prices are firm and listed on our website and your contract. Delivery (via car or in cabin flight) is an additional expense. If you cannot be flexible in terms of delivery date/time, you will need to pay any additional expenses we incur such as increased cost of flight and hotel rooms. Reservations for the litter are based on the order in which your deposit is received. No reservation is guaranteed until your deposit has been received.

- A deposit of \$500 should be sent in upon notification that your application has been accepted. If she does not get pregnant, your deposit will be moved to another litter.
- A payment of  $\frac{1}{2}$  is due when the puppies are born. If we do not receive this payment by the time the puppies are 1 week of age, another family's application may be accepted and you will be moved to another litter.
- The final balance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  + delivery fee is due by 6 weeks of age.
- All payments are due prior to puppy pick up. If the balance is not received by the puppies turning 6 weeks of age, your payments will be held and applied to the next available puppy/litter.
- NO PERSONAL CHECKS are accepted! We do accept Cashier's Checks but they must be received by the age of 6 weeks.
- Payment Methods:
  - Venmo: arrowheadlabradoodles
  - Zelle: 3183485272
  - Good Dog
  - Cash or Cashier's Checks
  - Stripe for an additional 4% fee.

## Visiting the puppies

We are a home-based business and are unable to take visitors in our home. We do not have a large enough facility to accommodate puppy visitors or handle the interruptions to our home life and the care of our dogs and puppies. Canine Parvo Virus, Distemper and Canine Influenza are deadly communicable disease that are serious threat to young puppies that have not been fully vaccinated. The viruses can be transferred by hands, clothes and even the soles of one's shoes, without one knowing that they have been exposed. Therefore, we do not accept visitors to see the puppies. We realize and appreciate your interest in wanting to meet and get to know our wonderful dogs, but we ask for your understanding regarding our no visitation policy, for the overall safety and well-being of our puppies. We look forward to meeting you on puppy pick up day! Before pickup day you can view pictures on our [Arrowhead Website](#) and our [Facebook](#)

page. My Facebook page is a public one so even if you don't have a FB account, you can view my page. I also have a private AAL Owners Group on FB that you will be invited to join upon receipt of your deposit. You will need an account to be a part of the group. It was set up so that owners of my doodles can interact without the privacy concerns of the public page. Only members of the groups can see your posts and pictures.

## Puppy Allocations

Puppies will be allocated between week 7-8 after we have a chance to fully assess all the puppy's temperaments. During this time, I will be determining which puppy/s will be retained for breeding.

After breeder choices have been made, puppies will be selected by our families but we prefer that you also take into account personality and temperament. We will guide you on what we think is the best fit. But ultimately the decision is yours. While we will take into consideration gender and personal preference, personality and temperament will be the deciding factor and families/puppies will be matched by temperaments. Most people fall in love with a look, which may or may not be a good fit for your family and/or lifestyle. Puppy pickup day will be in the birth announcement from the litter. If you are picking up your puppy in LA, the date is not flexible so please plan accordingly. For hand delivery, we will make arrangements with the families in the same/similar area receiving a puppy.

## Vaccines

Your puppy will have had age-appropriate puppy shots prior to going home. This DOES NOT mean they are fully protected so be smart about where you take them. Areas that are highly populated by dogs are more likely to carry diseases that can be fatal for puppies. Carry your puppy into the vet's office just to be safe. Your puppy will need three more puppy vaccinations for parvo/distemper at age 9, 12 and 16 weeks. DO NOT LET YOUR PUPPY ON THE GROUND UNTIL HE/SHE IS 18 WEEKS OLD IN PUBLIC PLACES (ANYWHERE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME OR FENCED IN YARD) Please google vaccinosis in dogs to learn more about issues with over vaccination and be an advocate for your puppy [Whole Dog Journal - Vaccinations](#). Only rabies is required by law. I would suggest running titers on your puppy once they have their 3 sets of puppy shots for distemper and parvo. I never give my dogs rabies with any other vaccination. I also never give my dogs the lyme or lepto vaccines. One reason is they can still contract the disease even though they have gotten the vaccine. Another reason is I would prefer to know the signs for these diseases and treat if necessary.

## Finding a Puppy Class / Playgroup

Most importantly is a class where the trainer, owner and puppy are all having fun! Look for classes where puppies are frequently trained. Puppies should also be given an opportunity to play with each other off leash and are trained to settle down with toys, treats, fun and games. Look for classes where the puppies learn quickly and the owners are pleased with their puppy's progress.

Avoid any classes that advocate the use of any metal collar or any physical punishment (i.e. leash jerk, alpha rollover, etc.). These are out of date methods. Also, avoid big pet stores for training. The trainers typically are not as good and there is a higher chance for your puppy to catch a disease. Remember, everyone should be having a good time - trainer, owner and puppy!

- I love BAXTER & Bella's Online Puppy School! It is a program that you purchase with 65 lessons, over 100 videos and so much more. You do this at your own pace in the convenience of your own home or you can even take with you when you are traveling. You also receive LIFETIME SUPPORT for FREE!!! That is a deal within itself! You also get 25% off by using my discount code: **ARROWHEAD!!!!** We have worked very hard to start your puppy off on the right paw! BAXTER & Bella's Online Puppy School provides a seamless transition from our home to yours by educating you how to train and interact with your puppy to get the best possible results. Not only will you learn the skills you need to be successful, but your puppy will learn incredible manners and behaviors as well! The program is set up for you to complete the first two units BEFORE your puppy comes home so we recommend signing up right away. Amy helps you set up your home, get your family all on the same page and teaches you exactly what to do the second your puppy arrives for optimal training success. Check it out at... [BAXTER & Bella Online Puppy School.](#) \*\*\*\*Remember to use Discount Code **ARROWHEAD** at checkout for an instant 25% savings – an incredible value on their lifetime membership). We recommend this on top of group classes. It's a phenomenal resource.\*\*\*\*
- For those of you in Northeast Louisiana, I would strongly recommend CT Dog Services.

## Grooming - click to be directed to our website with tons of info and links.

Your puppy will need to be brushed weekly/bi-weekly and bathed every two months (or sooner if you don't want a bug from your puppy...eewww ☺). At first it is to get the puppy used to grooming so they are not afraid of brushing or bathing.

During your puppy's coat change (beginning 10-16 months of age), brushing will be critical to prevent matting and will likely need to be increased to every other day. I have had the best luck with the brushes listed below (and I have tried just about every kind available). When bathing your puppy, it is very important not to get water in his/her ears as it can cause ear infections. Nails should be trimmed every 4-6 weeks. Have some styptic powder on hand. You will nick the quick at some time if you trim nails...we all do, just be prepared with styptic powder to stop the bleeding. Doodles have ear hair that needs to be pulled/plucked otherwise your puppy may end up with chronic ear infections. I will show everyone how to do this when you pick up your puppy. You can also see a video of it on our Facebook Owners Group.

If you plan to use a groomer, I would suggest taking pictures of doodles groomed that you like and give them specific instructions. Don't leave there unless your puppy looks the way you want. Most groomers appreciate the feedback as they know you won't be back unless you like your dog's haircut. Ask for a puppy cut...same length all over the body (your preference), however I would suggest no more than 2 inches when the coat change is taking place as it will be easier to manage.

**Brushes** - The Chris Christansen & [Activet](#) brushes are amazing and expensive, however they are the best ones I have found so far. Wish I would have bought it first and not spent more than that on other brushes that didn't work at all.

### Puppy Development

A general rule of thumb for socialization is that your puppy should meet 100 different people by 8 weeks of age and another 100 people by 16 weeks of age. See the socialization list below.

Doodle Development Periods (reprinted/adapted with permission from [www.idog.biz](#))

Your puppy will pass through many stages as he grows and develops. Many puppy owners are shocked, surprised or downright freaked out about the way that their cute little puppy is behaving. Just check of what stage of development the little guy (or gal) is in...it explains a lot (like he isn't crazy). Behaviors can be accounted for with these stages, but a lot of these behaviors are also not acceptable and you must train and lead the way.

The mother of your puppy will start the process by building the foundation. This responsibility will then be turned over to you. It cannot be expressed enough times how important is for you to train and lead your puppy so that he will be a happy well-adjusted member of your family for life.

### Puppy Toddlers Period (3 - 8 Weeks)

“Mom teaches dog manners”

### Socialization Period (7 - 12 Weeks) and First Fear Imprint Period (8-11 Weeks)

“Lasting impact, rapid learning”

### Seniority Classification Period (12-16 Weeks)

“You’re not the boss of me!”

### Flight Instinct Period (4 - 8 Months)

“Fly like an Eagle, into the wind”

### Adolescence Period (7 - 10 months)

“Welcome to the Teenage Years – Enjoy the Ride”

### Second Fear Imprint Period (6 - 14 Months)

“Yikes! What’s up with that?”

### Mature Adulthood Development Period (1 - 3 Years)

“I shall protect thy kingdom!”

### Puppy Toddlers Period (3 - 8 Weeks)

“Mom teaches dog manners”

During the Toddler period, the doodle puppies emerge on their own from the litter. They venture into the surrounding environment. These lessons learned in the toddler stage are CRITICAL. Puppies removed too early tend to be nervous, tend to bark inappropriately, tend to bite simply because these lessons a mother and littermates usually provides were missed. Training problems and long-term behavior problems can often be attributed to a puppy removed from the litter much too soon.

**Beginning at 3 weeks of age** What is going on:

The first lessons learned are dog specific behavioral patterns.

- They will learn various postures meanings and their affects to their mother and littermates.
- They will learn how to bite and what it is like to be bitten.
- They will learn what barking and other vocalizations mean and their uses.
- They will learn how to establish social relationships with other dogs.

**Beginning at 5 weeks of age** What is going on:

Vocalization and tempered activities (dog manners) usually are learned at approximately 5 weeks of age.

- ✿ They will learn how to be submissive to the leader of the pack.
- ✿ They will learn and refine additional postures, vocalizations and acceptable dog interaction behaviors.

**What the Puppy's mother will do:**

The mother will growl, snarl and snap to communicate. With a few very clear signals and repetitions, the young puppy will learn quickly. At that point a mother's glare or low growl is all that is needed to keep a young pup in line. Littermates also learn clear signals of communication to each other.

**Socialization Period (7 - 12 Weeks) and First Fear Imprint Period (8-11 Weeks)**  
"Lasting impact, rapid learning"

Dogs that are denied socialization during this critical Socialization period often become unpredictable because they are fearful or aggressive. It is during this time, that your dog needs to have positive experiences. They need to be introduced to new things and begin the groundwork to a happy, well-adjusted dog.

**Beginning at 7 weeks of age** What is going on:

- ✿ Short attention spans.
- ✿ Things learned are permanent and will be resistant to change.
- ✿ Puppy will be eager to learn.
- ✿ What he does and learns now, he will do as an adult.
- ✿ Puppy's temperament and personality will become more apparent.
- ✿ Puppy will be transitioning his education from his mother to his human environment.

**Beginning at 8 weeks and ending at approximately 11 weeks of age**

What is going on:

- ✿ Any traumatic, painful or frightening experiences can have a lasting impact.

What You Can Do:

- Gradually introduce your puppy to new things, environments and people.
- Make experiences positive (provide treats or toys)
- Don't push your puppy into fearful situations – take things slowly and allow him to adjust and get use to the situation.
- Do not let others push your puppy or be forceful with them.
- Provide a secure comforting demeanor.
- Teach the puppy you are there to protect and lead.

## Seniority Classification Period (12-16 Weeks)

"You're not the boss of me!"

The puppy has been in the home now for a few weeks. He has been watching you and the family very closely. He is picking up on human behaviors and reactions. He is learning the pecking order of the pack. As he observes and learns, he will then attempt to figure out where exactly he stands in the pack order, and to also see if moving up in the pack will work. After all, he knows who the "weak links" are and will start at the bottom and try to move right up the pack. How could such a cute little pup be such a pistol?

What is going on:

- Puppy will begin to question authority.
- Puppy will attempt to move himself up in the pack order.
- Puppy will try to dominate.
- Puppy will grab leashes
- Puppy will try to determine what activities are going to be done and when.

Puppy may growl.

- Puppy may put his mouth on you.
- Puppy can often become over excited.

What you can do:

- Learn how your actions and body language communicate to your dog.
- Do not play aggressive games during this phase. (Tug or wrestling)
- If puppy becomes over excited, growls or mouths you, you stop all activity.

Be very aware of how the puppy interacts with children – do not leave children unattended with the puppy.

- Enroll in a puppy kindergarten class to redirect some of the energy.
- Evaluate the whole family's methods of interactions and corrections and make sure that all are consistent and clear. (Unified front concept here)

### Flight Instinct Period (4 - 8 Months)

“Fly like an Eagle, into the wind”

Your cute little puppy has been following you around for weeks now. He has been aware of where you are and would stay pretty close. During this period that same cute little puppy will decide that he is ready to go solo and take off running quicker than lightening. During this time, teaching the puppy that he must stay close by or come when called is critical. The failure to do this will result in a dog that will not be reliable to come or to stay close by as an adult and very well could lead the dog into a life or death situation.

What is going on:

- The puppy will become more independent.
- A puppy that previously would never go very far, will venture off.
- The Puppy will ignore commands to stay close or come.
- How you handle refusal to come or stay will affect future reliability off leash.

Puppy will be clever in attempts to run around loose.

What you can do:

- Leash on 100% of the time they are not in a confined area.
- Never allow dog loose in an unconfined area. (Yes, this is redundant to the above, so it must be pretty important for us to say it twice.)
- Being off leash outside of a confined area is reserved for who have been well trained.
- Enroll in training class that utilizes positive training techniques.
- Reinforce and continue to train your puppy “come”.
- Make coming a very positive experience.

Oh... and never allow your puppy to be off leash in an unconfined area.

### Adolescence Period (7 - 10 months)

“Welcome to the Teenage Years – Enjoy the Ride”

This is one of the most difficult times for pet owners. They are so surprised when their puppy turns into “devil dog” or “cujo”. This often is a time when many families start to worry that maybe they made a bad decision in getting a dog. Remember: you get what you put into it. You

take the time right now to teach good habits, you will have the dog you always dreamed of for many years. This work will pay off.

What is going on:

- The puppy will become a free and independent thinker.
- The puppy will continue to review the pack order.
- The puppy will be very energetic.
- The puppy will be exuberant and enthusiastic.
- They turn into clowns with teeth.

They will delight in learning new and fun things.

What you can do:

- Appreciate the humor of it all.
- Have you read the book *The Dog Listener* yet? It will help.
- Understand that despite the behaviors it is your time to continue to train and reinforce the things you do want him to do.
- Reaffirm the family pack order.
- Be realistic about expectations (still very much a puppy in a big boy body)
- Channel all that energy into positive learning experiences.
- Continue with training classes; explore options for additional training opportunities.

### Second Fear Imprint Period (6 - 14 Months)

“Yikes! What’s up with that?”

You have a puppy that is full of beans, he runs around like a clown in search of his next show. But then, BAM, he refuses to walk down some stairs, he is shaking in the car, or he jumps at the sound of the neighbor’s music. Surprise! This is normal, but you must help your dog figure out how to deal with his fears or concerns. The skills of learning how to “shake it off and keep going” will be valuable to him for the rest of his life. It will also reduce the chances that the things he fears will not be permanently imprinted for life.

What is going on:

- The puppy that was so confident will suddenly become reluctant to new things.
- This period can be subtle.
- This period can come and go several times over this entire period.
- It may appear to be unprovoked or unrelated to any specific occurrence.
- Puppy can become frustrating to owners.

You may notice this behavior more in males.

What you can do:

- Avoid extremes in your response (no anger or forcing or over comforting) Be patient and understanding.
- Be aware of surrounding and potential triggers.
- Work on desensitizing him with gradual introductions with rewards.
- Avoid too much reassurance or coddling (which is a reward for this behavior)  
Don't over react or correct the fearfulness – just make light of it and encourage him to deal with his fear (work through the fear).
- Praise with grand rewards for his attempts.
- Your dog will take his clues from you, if you act frightened or concerned, he will too.

## Mature Adulthood Development Period (1 - 3 Years)

"I shall protect thy kingdom!"

So, the puppy is no longer an itty-bitty baby, he is pretty much fully-grown in height. He will begin to fill out a bit and develop more muscle tone. But, mentally, the dog is still working out some last details of his life and what it means to him. He IS a member of a pack and now begins to find that his turf is worthy of monitoring and protecting. Sort of sounds nice to have your dog be protective, but don't fall for it. You do not want your dog to take over these responsibilities because in no time you too will be under the rule of the King Dog. Which can lead to aggressive behaviors, protective to the point of creating fear or actually harming someone or another animal as he protects. This is bad news, and often a reason a dog is taken out of the home or destroyed. So, don't allow your dog to be the King of the Castle, assign him the role of court jester – he will be happier and so will your family.

What is going on:

- The dog may become more turf protective.
- Strangers may be greeted with barking.

Barking at noises, birds, cars, butterflies, pretty much everything he believes worthy of attention.

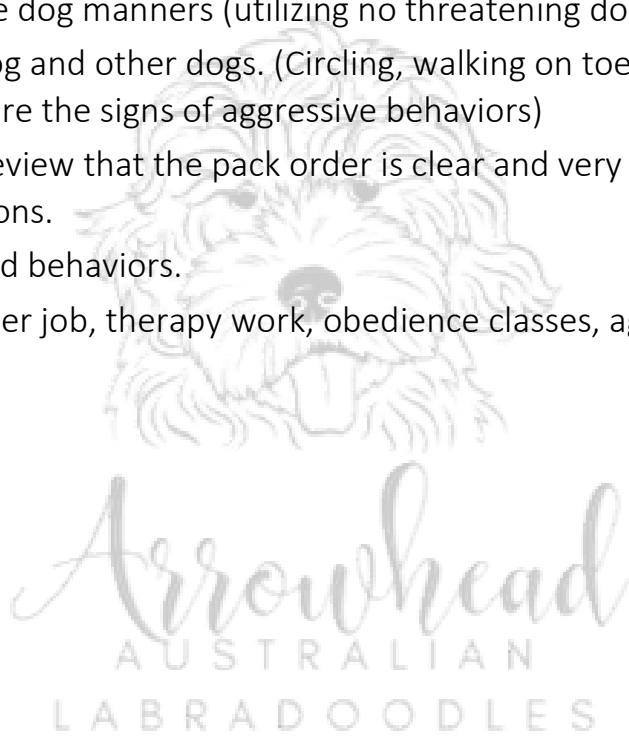
- Playing with other dogs may escalate to fighting.
- Same sex confrontations of other dogs can occur.
- Once again, checking the pack order to see if he can move up.

What you can do:

- Reinforce how to greet strangers into your home.
- Teach your dog to ignore dogs he cannot be nice to.
- Practice or reinforce dog manners (utilizing no threatening dogs)

Learn to read your dog and other dogs. (Circling, walking on toes, stiff tail wags, tense facial expressions – are the signs of aggressive behaviors)

- Rally your family to review that the pack order is clear and very one is consistent with training and corrections.
- Reward him for good behaviors.
- Give that dog another job, therapy work, obedience classes, agility.



# PDF-Socialization Ideas

Put this list on the refrigerator and mark off each item your puppy experiences it.

## People

Friends

Family

Baby

Toddlers

Children

Teenagers

100 different unknown men AND women of various ethnicities

Mail carrier (USPS, UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc)

Policeman / Fireman

People wearing a hat, carrying an umbrella, etc

Person on a bike

People carrying things

People who move quickly

People who move slowly

People walking with a cane, walker and/or crutches

## Animals

Puppies & Dogs (small, medium, large, extra-large)

Pet Animals (Cats, Hamster, Guinea Pig, Turtle, Fish)

Farm Animals (Chickens, Ducks, Turkeys, Horses, Cows, Goats, Sheep, Pigs, Llamas) Wild Animals (Rabbits, Deer, Toads/Frogs)

## Places

Puppy class / social / playgroup

Vet's office (carry your puppy in and out until his vaccinations are complete)

Children's playground

Ballpark / Soccer field

School

Lowes / Home Depot

Pet store (please wait until at least a week after your puppy has all their shots) Work (if appropriate)

Overnight at a friend or family's home (with you and without)

City / Country

## Things

Elevator

Stairs (not too much as a puppy otherwise it can impact their hip and joint development negatively)

Floors/Ground (Wood, Tile, Carpet, Sand, Rocks, Blacktop, Sidewalks, Woodchips)