



BREED STANDARD of the Australian Labradoodle 2004

Temperament and Soundness are the two KEY elements in a good family companion; they must not be sacrificed for any reason.

General Appearance:

Should be athletic and graceful yet compact with substance and medium boning. Joyful and energetic when free, and soft and quiet when handled. They should approach people in a happy friendly manner with eye-to-eye contact, keen and easy to train.

Size:

Standards: 22 to 26 inches weighing between 25 kg and 40 kg.

Mediums: 18 to 21 inches weighing between 15 kg to 25 kg.

Miniatures: 13 to 17 inches weighing between 10 to 20 kg.

Coat:

Coat length should be 4 to 6 inches long. It should be straight, wavy or forming light loose spirals. It should not be too thick or dense nor should it be fluffy or fuzzy. It should be a single coat. Any sign of a double coat is a fault.

Hair: This is a temporary coat in the Australian Labradoodle and should be bred away from. This is a shedding coat and can shed in varying degrees and have several different looks ranging for sparse feathering on the legs and a bearded face to a shaggy all over look. No matter the quantity of hair that is shed, a coat that sheds is considered a hair coat.

Fleece: This is a very soft coat that has close to the same texture as an angora goat. It is a non-shedding coat and can be either have a straight wavy look or a soft spiraling curl look. This coat is an easy to manage coat and is highly prized.

Wool: This coat is reminiscent of a lamb's wool in texture. This is a non-shedding coat and can have a highly prized looser spiraling look which opens up easily to the skin, a tight dense curling look or a thick and very dense straighter look. It is recommended to breed away from the thick and dense wool coat as they are very high maintenance compared to the looser spiraling wool.

Body:

Height to length ratio should be 10 to 12 [being slightly longer in leg, than body.] But still appearing compact. Shoulders should have good angulation with firm elbows. Up right shoulders is a fault. Hindquarters should be of medium angulation with short strong hocks. Movement when trotting should be strong, with good reach and drive, giving the appearance of "going somewhere" When relaxed or at play they will prance and skim the ground lightly. Top line should remain level with strong loin and croup. They are a galloping dog; therefore flanks should rise up from a deep brisket, and well-sprung ribs.

Tail:

Is preferred low set and saber like, a high set "gay" tail is permissible. Possum type or teapot handle tails are a fault. Padded, heavy or course appearance is a fault.

Head:

Broad, well-defined eyebrows, medium stop, eyes set well apart, nose to eye longer than eye to oculus, The head should be clean and chiseled. A long narrow or blockhead is a fault.

Ears:

Set flat against head and should be level with eye. Leather should be of medium thickness and not hang below lower lip line. Excessive hair in ear canal is undesirable.

Eyes:

Slightly round, large and expressive. Protruding or sunken eyes are a fault. Watery or tearful eyes are a fault.

Teeth:

Scissor bite. Under or over bite is a fault. Crowding teeth in miniatures is a fault.



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Nose:

Large, square, and fleshy.

Pigment:

Black or Rose. Pigment should be strong, Black pigmented dogs must have dark brown eyes. Pink spots or patches on nose, lips, eye rims, or pads are a fault. Dogs with Rose pigment can have golden hazel, green or brown eyes. Eye rims should be Rose as should nose, lips and pads. Pink spots or patches are a severe fault.

Colour:

- Chalk** This colour should be a white colour but if put up against a true white surface will not be an exact match but rather a chalk in colour. Nose pigment to be Black or Rose.
- Cream** This colour should be a soft Creamy colouring obviously not Chalk. Golden-Cream is a cream with Gold or Gold highlighted muzzle or ears and is considered a Cream. Apricot-Cream is a cream with Apricot or Apricot highlighted muzzle or ears and is considered a Cream. Nose pigment to be Black or Rose.
- Black** This colour should be a solid black in colour with no, brown or “silvering” around eyes, muzzle, or pads. Nose pigment to be Black.
- Silver** This colour can come in several ranges in shades from very light pewter in colour to a dark charcoal in colour, regardless of the shade of Silver the coat colour should be even across the body. The Silver coat colour will develop over time (1-3 yrs) but as a developed adult should have an even coat colour. Silvers are born Black and show signs of going silver usually around the eyes, muzzle and in the hairs on the pads of their feet. Nose pigment to be Black.
- Blue** This colour should be an even blue colour having that “oily blue” effect on the coat with Blue/Grey pigmented skin. Blues are born with Blue/Grey skin pigment colouring. The blue coat colour will develop over time (1-3yrs) but as a developed adult should have an even coat colour. Nose pigment to be Blue/Grey and matching the skin pigmentation.
- Chocolate** This colour should be a solid preferably or fading chocolate in colour. Nose pigment to match the coat colour. Note: A rich dark Chocolate colour is most desirable with no variation or fading, though a lighter and/or fading chocolate is acceptable.
- Café** This colour should be a true Café colour having Mauve or Lavendery type colouring over the entire body with even colouring preferred. The Café coat colour will develop over time (1-3yrs) but as a developed adult should have an even coat colour. Cafés are born chocolate and show signs of going café usually around the eyes, muzzle and in the hairs on the pads of their feet. A lighter chocolate colouring in these areas are NOT considered a true Café but rather a less than rich chocolate colour. Nose pigment to be Lavendery or Mauve in colour
- Gold** This colour should be a solid Yellowy-Gold in colour on the entire body and ears, no fading or variation is considered a true Gold colour. Nose pigment to be Black or Rose in colour.
- Apricot** This colour should be the colour of the inside of an apricot. There is the tendency with this colour to be less than rich and to have darker ears, back (saddle effect) and muzzle. Any puppy showing the “saddle effect” on the back are considered apricot in colour even if the “saddle effect” is red. A solid even apricot colouring across the whole body and ears is most desirable. Nose pigment to be Black or Rose. **NOTE:** Dogs previously noted as Caramel in colour are considered by the LAA as Apricot with rose pigment nose.
- Red** This colour should be a solid red in colour in “orangey” red, “mahogany” red or “burgundy” red. This is a solid colour coat any dogs displaying the “saddle effect” are considered apricot. Nose pigment to be Black.

The Australian Labradoodle should be solid in colour with no white markings. A small white flash no larger than 2.5cm x 2.5cm on the chest, feet or tail is permissible.



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Special Qualities:

There should be no body odor or "shedding" It is acceptable to "change coats" once a year seasonal and from puppy to adult, also during hormonal changes in fertile bitches. This coat must not shed, but should be groomed out. It is important that the coat gives the impression of being a fleece or wool rather than dog hair. Perception, the Australian Labradoodle should also display intuition about their family members or handlers current emotional state or needs. This ability to "Know" is what has made this breed an excellent dog for services animals for individuals with special needs.

Temperament:

Extremely clever, sociable and joyful. Easily trained. Quick to learn unusual or special tasks. Active, a little comical at times. Can attempt to outsmart their owners if undisciplined. Friendly though obviously loyal to own family. Non Aggressive.

FAULTS:

Yappy, Highly strung, Dominance/Aggression, Fearful/timid, Aggressive to other animals. **Special** attention must be directed to soundness. It is the Responsibility of conscientious breeders to test their dogs against HD, PRA, Cardiomyopathy, elbow and patella disorders. It is good to keep in mind that the Australian Labradoodle has been bred as a family companion and service dog. No one wants the heartache of illness, and the expense of an ill dog.

There is no Scientific Laboratory proof that the Australian Labradoodle is Hypoallergenic.

ANECDOTAL research indicates that the fleece and wool textures of the Australian Labradoodle ARE very successful with Asthma and Allergy Sufferers.

In these infant years of breeding the Australian Labradoodle many first cross {ALF1} and throwbacks will occur, with a wiry, sparse or half and half shedding type coat. These dogs need not be discarded for breeding, but can be assessed on their soundness of body and temperament. Many of these individuals offer valuable hybrid genetics and will breed on excellent Australian Labradoodles. In order to produce a breed of quality haste should be made slowly. Genetic resources must be kept broad to protect the Australian Labradoodle breed from the disasters that many other breeds are suffering, "the genetic dead end".