



## Responsibilities of a Dog Owner

Congratulations! You have decided to bring a new dog into your family. It is a decision that comes with important responsibilities. By purchasing your dog from an ALAA Member Breeder you are committing to ensure your dog's continued health and well-being, as well as protecting and preserving our beloved breed. The following are the ALAA's recommendations for dog ownership:

1. In accordance with your breeder's health guarantee, have your dog examined by a licensed veterinarian to ensure its good health.
2. Provide quality food, water, exercise, and regular grooming; Matted coats are painful.
3. Provide lots of human contact, mental stimulation and a loving home to ensure your dog's safety and well-being.
4. Practice safe socialization with puppies to minimize the risk of contracting infectious diseases such as parvovirus. Understand the importance of socializing your puppy safely to new things (people, dogs, other pets, places, smells, sounds, sights, textures) between 8-16 weeks of age and continue this exposure for the life of your dog.
5. Avoid public spaces with dogs of unknown health status (e.g. pet stores, dog parks) until the puppy is fully vaccinated. This includes allowing your puppy on the floor, unsanitized table, or uncovered scale at your veterinarian's office.
6. If your puppy was purchased on a spay/neuter contract, abide by having your dog spayed/neutered at an appropriate age as agreed upon with your breeder.
7. Provide preventive care such as vaccinations and parasite control and bring your dog for yearly vet visits
8. In the event of sickness or injury seek immediate veterinary care
9. Consider purchasing veterinary health insurance to ensure unexpected medical bills are affordable.
10. Keep your dog within healthy weight limits.
11. Ensure your dog has permanent identification by microchip. Register your dog's microchip and keep your contact information current with the microchip company.
12. Inform your breeder of any physical or behavioral health problems that arise, especially health problems that are known to be inheritable or have unknown causes.
13. Notify the breeder if you are ever unable to keep your dog, regardless of the reason or circumstances so that the breeder can take back the dog or assist in rehoming. If your

breeder is unable or unwilling to assist, the dog owner should notify the ALAA for assistance. Your dog should never be surrendered to a shelter or rescue without contact with your breeder or the ALAA first.

14. Do not under any circumstances sell/trade your dog to any commercial animal wholesalers or retail pet dealers/traders
15. Notify your breeder of any change of address, especially email address, and/or phone number for their records.
16. Provide basic training, at a minimum, to ensure the happiness and safety of your dog.
17. Include your pets in your planning for an emergency or disaster, including assembling an evacuation kit.

Our Breeder Members love to get feedback from you regarding the temperament, health, and overall life of your dog! Please stay in contact with them and send pictures!

**Your membership in the ILA/ALAA helps to preserve and protect this beloved breed.**

***Dedicated to protecting the Australian Labradoodle through responsible breeding, education, integrity, and love.***