

Shopping for your pup – some suggestions.

Firstly - Where to shop

I currently buy almost all my non-prescription and some dog supplies from the online pet shops. Another place to go is to your local Reject shop, K Mart or Target for reasonably priced toys, beds and even kennels. I would certainly make this your first stop when shopping for your new pup. Beds are very expensive from pet shops and can get chewed when your puppy is young so I would suggest the \$40 option from Reject rather than a \$200 version from a pet shop.

For your dry food/kibble go to a vet, quality pet shop or online. Many supermarkets do not carry high-quality pet food. I suggest you look at www.petfoodreviews.com.au and you can see the foods that rate well. There are a couple of supermarket brands that do well.

Food and water bowl.

When the puppy gets older and bigger it is good to change the water container to a bucket as in summer they need lots of fresh water and then at least you know they will have enough if alone for the day.

Flat collar and leash

Your pup will come with a lightweight puppy collar and lead. A small harness and seat belt is recommended for travel in your vehicle. Your pup is at risk in an accident just like us.

A crate, kennel or warm place to sleep.

Let me know if you want to use a crate and I will give you some more advice. If you just want a crate for sleeping inside, I recommend a soft lightweight crate that will store flat. See section on crates below.

Nail trimmer



Different from scissors. You can buy these from pet shops, they are a good idea as some dogs can be silly about having their nails trimmed. Watch a you tube video or ask your vet to show you how to do this if you haven't done it before. If you cut the nail too short you can cut the blood vessels that supply the nail and it will bleed, not to mention that its painful. In white / cream dogs like the blood vessels are easy to see but in a choc doodle this will be more difficult. Dogs that are silly about it have probably had a bad experience. It is easy to do, you just need to be careful. If concerned your groomer or Vet are

happy to do this for you.

Treats

- When selecting treats make sure they are high quality (not cheap from discount variety stores)
- Try to find treats that are low in fat (under 10% if possible) – too many treats fill your pup up and they won't eat their normal meals.
- Try a raw carrot for a healthy, low fat treat.

Heartworm and Intestinal wormer



When treating your dog for heartworm and intestinal worms there are many products available today on the market. My personal preference is **Interceptor** – a monthly heartworm and intestinal worm treatment matched with 3 monthly **Bravecto** (flea and tick control) is a perfect option for families with tick and or flea problems in their area. If you don't have ticks or fleas Interceptor by itself is enough. It is also safe to use with breeding pups.

Flea/Tick Control

There are so many good products available. If you live in an area that has paralysis ticks, I would recommend for tick and adult flea control either Nexgard (given monthly for one month protection) or Bravecto (given every 3 months for quarterly protection).



Ear Cleaning Solution/Care

There are lots of ear cleaning products available. I prefer to use Dry Ear Powder for day to day ear care– please refer to our puppy notes for details on its use. If you wish to use a liquid ear cleaner, then Epi-Otic or Paws Ear Cleaner are two popular products. You should use an ear cleaner after a bath or when the ears appear dirty.

If your Labradoodle has a hairy ear canal you can also get some forceps to assist in removing the hair every



couple of months this will allow air to get into the ear canal and help reduce the risk of yeast infections in the ear. You can find them at first aid supply kiosks and probably chemists.



Slicker brush and some small/medium scissors.

I prefer to use a Gripsoft Slicker Brush as I have found it to be the most comfortable to use and has soft bristles.



Shampoo

Pick a dog/puppy shampoo. There are a huge number to choose from at your pet store or vet. I also use a conditioner which makes grooming a lot easier.



Clippers

I have started to recommend that my puppy buyers think about purchasing a good set of clippers. Your Labradoodle will need to be fully clipped about 3 – 4 times a year from about 9-12mths of age It will cost around \$60 -\$100 dollars to pay a groomer. When I clip my dogs the same length all over and they look great, this is not difficult for the novice. A good set of clippers will cost you around \$160 - \$200 plus \$30 -\$80 for extra blades. Shop on-line as they are considerably cheaper than at pet stores. They are handy to have if you want to do a bit of a trim around the eyes in between clips as well. The most popular brands are Andis, Wahl, and Oster. For comfort and price, the Wahl is probably the best value (the Wahl hand piece pictured below is the one I currently use, and I am very happy with its performance).



For blades I usually suggest 3 different sizes. The blade that comes with the clipper hand piece is a close shave I suggest getting a shorter length 7F – for summer and a longer 5F as well. Look on Ebay to get a great price.

Crates

There are 3 main types of crates available on the market. We recommend sleeping your pup in a crate for the first 3-6 months to assist with toilet training.



Wire crates – this would be suitable if you want a crate that is for a larger dog and you want to be able to use it to travel your dog on aircraft etc. Will collapse for storage but is heavy.



Plastic Crates – usually for smaller sizes, puppies that are shipping to other states will travel in a plastic crate. Bulky will not collapse for storage.



Soft Crates – the most versatile for sleeping at night and toilet training your pup – this is the crate I most often recommend to families to help with toilet training/sleeping at night. Light weight and will store flat, good for travel in the car but not suitable for airline travel. Cheaper to purchase online rather than at pet stores.

Books/Information

There are many good books and audio books out there on the market. Any learning you can do to help you be the best fur parent is good for you and your puppy. **The Power Of Positive Dog Training by Pat Miller** is excellent

Cesar Milan also known as the 'dog whisperer' has written several books as well as a TV series called the Dog Whisperer. There are very polarizing opinions about Cesar but I found his teaching very helpful especially the series on Pack Leadership. His philosophy is essentially about being a good pack leader for your dog. His results are amazing and what he teaches is really just common sense. Here are some of his books that are available also check out his website.

He also has Labradoodles in his pack, so he must be great 😊
<http://www.cesarmillaninc.com/>

