

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 \$2 shop as this is the best place to get toys and 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 on when they are young so I would suggest the \$20 option from Crazy Clarks rather than a \$100 version from a pet shop.

For your dry food/kibble always go to a vet or quality pet shop – if you can buy it at the supermarket then it is not going to be a high quality food. What you pay for is what you get you should expect to pay around \$90-\$120 for a 15kg bag of high quality food. I **do not** consider Super Coat or Optimum a high quality food even though both are marketed by TV vets – they are budget dog food produced by large companies who also produce high quality dry food.

- ❖ **Food and water bowl.** When the puppy gets older and bigger it's good to change its 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 light weight puppy collar and lead.
- ❖ **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 crate – light, will store flat. See section on crates below.
- ❖ **Toys.**
- ❖ **It is a good idea to decide where you want to go to puppy pre-school/obedience class and book in.**
- ❖ **Nail trimmer** is different from scissors. You can buy these from pet shops and they are a good idea as some dogs can be silly about having their nails trimmed. It would be best to remember to get me, or 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 it which bleed profusely and not to mention that it's painful. In white dogs like Amber the blood vessels are easy to see but in a choc doodle will be more difficult. Dogs that are silly about it have probably had a bad experience. It's really easy to do you just need to be careful.

❖ 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 either **Nexgard** or **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 sufficient

There is also a yearly heartworm injection that your vet will likely offer you (cannot be given till 6 months of age) but I think that treating for heartworm and intestinal worms in one monthly tablet is an easy and more cost effective treatment option.

******A 3 pack of Interceptor can be purchased in our puppy starter pack**

❖ 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 for (given monthly for one months protection) or Bravecto (given every 3 months for quarterly protection).

***** Bravecto can be purchased in our puppy starter pack**



❖ 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.

*****Dry Ear powder and Epi-Otic can be purchased in our puppy starter pack.**

❖ **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.



*****Blunt ended scissors for eye trimming and bottom trimming can be purchased in our puppy starter pack.**

❖ **Shampoo**

Pick a dog/puppy shampoo. There are a huge number to choose from at your pet store or vet.

***** Puppy shampoo can be purchased in our puppy starter pack.**

❖ **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 is not difficult to teach yourself and I am happy to help out with tips and suggestions. 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 probably 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. Search for these on Ebay to get a great price.

Crates

There are 3 main types of crates available on the market. We recommend sleeping you 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.

***** Our interstate families can purchase a travel crate and stay dry mat to ship their pup as part of their puppy starter pack.**



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.

If your pup is miniature to small medium get the large size

If you pup is medium get x-large

If your pup is standard get 2XL.

If you are only planning on using the crate while your pup is toilet training the large size would be fine for large medium/standard pups till they are 5-6 months old.

***** Available for purchase for local families picking up a part of the puppy starter pack.**

Books/Information

I am an absolute fan of the Dog Whisperer - Cesar Milan. He has several books out as well as a TV series called the Dog Whisperer that is showing on the Biography Channel on Foxtel. I would strongly recommend getting one of his books and watching his TV series if at all possible.

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 in most book shops or you can buy his books and DVD on-line at his website.

He also has Labradoodles in his pack, so he must be great 😊

<http://www.cesarmillaninc.com/>

