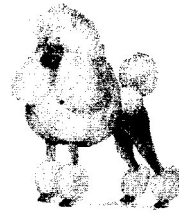


## **Poodles**

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### **CAVE CANEM**

**W**hat is the purpose of a breed club? To protect in all respects the breed for which it was formed, and to educate the public about said breed!

I have been involved with Poodles-all three varieties--throughout most of my life, as my mother was one of several fanciers who owned and bred the breed when it first became popular. In the more than 60 ensuing years, I have enjoyed the Poodle as a challenge to breed and raise correctly, enjoyed (as both a breeder and a professional handler) the preparation and presentation of the Poodle, and have enjoyed the Standard Poodle as a hunting and retrieving wonder dog.

In all of these years I have seen many other breeds take the liberty of breeding to *my* breed, the Poodle. These crosses, made to incorporate the Poodle intelligence, spark, and training ability into the other breeds, have resulted in Peke-a-poos, Cock-a-poos, Schnoodles (the Schnauzer cross), and so on. None of these crosses has prospered except in the puppy mills and pet shops. There has been no thought of creating a new and registrable breed until now, with the emergence of the Labradoodle.

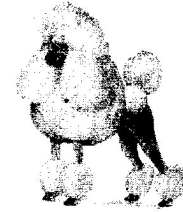
Billed as a nonshedding, intelligent breed for all reasons, the Labradoodle allegedly has the hybrid vigor that would supposedly stamp out the heritable diseases of both Labrador Retrievers and Poodles. Jump-started in Australia as the perfect breed for the blind, a Labradoodle breeding program was instituted and the results followed for a proper length of time-and it has now been discontinued. The reasons: Not all of the non shedding promises held true; the animals produced were a little too full of themselves to be trustworthy guide dogs; and the heritable disease of both breeds turned out to be very similar, and were inherited into each new generation of Labradoodles. These crossbreeds continue to be bred in both Australia and the United States, however, as they are very saleable and command huge prices. One or two thousand dollars per puppy is a very good price, particularly for a nonregistrable mixed breed.

Where will this trend lead our breed? In order to protect our breed from further exploitation, we must sell pet puppies on spay-neuter contracts to stop them from falling into the wrong hands. Do not ever allow your stud dog to be bred to a bitch of another breed. If you are a member of a breed club, this could put you in the position of having charges brought against you. Why? Because this is not responsible behavior if you are protecting the Poodle.

It has now come to my attention that Golden Retriever-Poodle crosses have joined the ranks of the Labradoodle: Golden-doodles! Beware! -Anne Rogers Clark, 720 Cattail Branch Rd., Greenwood, DE 19950; sealark@dmv.com

## **Poodles**

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The following is offered to clear up any misunderstanding concerning the breeding of labradoodles by the Royal Guide Dogs Association of Australia. [Poodles breed column, June 2005.] This is reprinted with the permission of the Guide Dog Association of Victoria.

### **INFORMATION SHEET--LABRADOODLES**

Labradoodles are a cross between a Labrador Retriever and a standard Poodle.

Royal Guide Dogs Association of Australia bred its first litter of labradoodles in late 1989, in an effort to produce a dog that would be more suitable for people with allergies.

The coat of the Poodle is generally recognized as being more suitable for people with allergies because it does not shed as much as coats of other dogs. The Association aimed to produce a dog that would combine the temperament of the Labrador (which is suitable for Guide Dog training) with the coat of a Poodle.

The Association does not claim that labradoodles are allergy-free, or non-allergenic, as has been often written about these dogs.

They were bred as part of an experimental process aimed at finding a dog that is trainable for Guide Dog work, but has a coat more suited to people with allergies. In a litter of 10 labradoodles, a person who is allergic to most dogs could find they were allergic to 8 of the 10 labradoodles, or even all of them.

The project was initially designed to meet the needs of one particular woman from Hawaii, whose husband was allergic to most dogs. This woman had requested that the Association try to find a dog that could be trained as a Guide Dog and would not produce an allergic reaction in her husband.

Samples of the coats of all three dogs from the first litter of labradoodles were sent to Hawaii. The woman's husband showed some allergic reaction to two of the three coats. The dog which did not produce an allergic reaction in the husband went on to be trained and is working most successfully in Hawaii.

A vision-impaired person assessed as suitable for a Guide Dog but who has allergies is thoroughly tested by a qualified allergist for reaction with the hair, skin scraping, and saliva sample of the labradoodle before the dog is allocated to the person as a Guide Dog.

The last labradoodles to qualify as Guide Dogs were bred in 1996. Guide Dogs Victoria has no plans to continue any further development of this particular crossbreed. The success rate of the cross was less than 35 percent for use as Guide Dogs, with only a small proportion of those being utilized in allergy situations as outlined above. The testing process outlined above found that many Labrador Retrievers could also be utilized in these particular circumstances.

Guide Dogs Victoria in no way endorses or supports the claims made by labradoodle breeders.

Guide Dogs Victoria is a not-for profit organization and utilizes its own breeding program to provide dogs of sound temperament and physical requirements for use as Guide Dogs.

Our thanks to the Guide Dog Association of Victoria for this information. -Anne Rogers Clark, 720 Cattail Branch Rd., Greenwood, DE 19950; sealark@dmv.com