

Amalie Labradoodles – Our Guardian Program

What is Amalie Labradoodles' guardian program?

At times we need guardian homes for our puppies – these are either male or female pups that hopefully will go on to join our breeding program. A male is called a stud and a female, a bitch. We select guardians living in the Geelong / Surf Coast region or nearby to care for our puppies as they grow and develop. Providing the dog passes its health testing at 1 year of age it joins the breeding program for a limited time (usually up to her 4th birthday / his 5th). When the puppy retires, we de-sex him/her and they take on a simple life of leisure as your family pet.

What does Amalie look for in families or individuals wanting to be a guardian?

Guardians have to be comfortable with having a dog that is not de-sexed. We also look for those who are happy with the puppy being away from home for mating or when a bitch comes to stay with our family to whelp and feed her newborn puppies. We expect our pups to be well socialised and obedient and for you to keep us informed about the pup while in the program.

How many litters would a bitch have?

We have contracts with our guardian families that allow for our girls to have a maximum of four litters but usually they will have fewer than that and we make decisions on the number of litters in consultation with our vet. The health of our dogs is paramount and we have built our reputation as an accredited breeder on our commitment to doing the best for our dogs and the breed.

How much will it cost me to be a part of the guardian program?

We charge a reduced fee for our breeding puppies and we cover some costs (council registration and introductory obedience training). You will cover all other costs associated with normal care of your puppy such as feeding, routine vet expenses and preventative health care. Any costs associated with breeding are covered by Amalie Labradoodles.

What do I have to do to care for a breeding puppy – is there anything extra?

Most of what you would do for a breeding puppy is exactly the same as for a pet puppy. For the first year you will just enjoy and get to know your new four-legged friend. Apart from routine care (feeding, shelter, grooming and exercise, socialisation) we ask that you provide obedience training as it is important to us that our Labradoodles are good ambassadors ... and love is a given!

- At 6-8 months we will need to take photos with a full coat (before 1st clip)
- At about 1 year of age, we will complete the health testing
- Usually a bitch will come into season in the first year – refer info sheet| [Care of a bitch](#)

I'm not sure if this will suit me (and my family) what else do I need to consider?

In making decisions about joining the program you need to ensure that the whole family has a good understanding of what is involved – even the kids as they are the ones that will find it hardest to have their best buddy away from time to time. You will need to ensure that you are able to keep the puppy safely (ie that you have adequate fencing) and are willing to look for changes in a bitch as she comes into season (we will teach you what to look for and what to do). A bitch will usually need to visit a stud for mating and this takes place over a few days. She returns to you for 8 weeks of her pregnancy then will come to live in our home for the last week, for whelping and until her pups are weaned. At Amalie we trust in mother's milk – it provides fantastic nutrition and we complete the weaning of our pups as late as 7 weeks of age. Of course this depends on the pups and the bitch to some extent but can mean that your girl is with us for a maximum of 8 weeks. Studs fulfill their duties in locally in most circumstances. We welcome your visits to see the puppies develop and load photos and videos online regularly. There is additional info and sample contracts for your review here | www.amalie.com.au/guardian.htm

If you are still unsure after considering the information provided here, it may be that a pet puppy will suit you better. Please contact us to discuss the program in more detail.

What's the next step?

If you think this is a program you would like to be considered for we would like to know a little more about you – please contact us by email and we will arrange a time to meet and discuss