

Goldendoodles By Buddy & Annie (Dear Darling Doodles)

- I raise the puppies in my home, in the midst of our family and with their parents (Sire, AKC Reg Lt. Golden Retriever, Dam, AKC Reg Apricot Standard Poodle) present at all times. They also enjoy the company of their Auntie CoCo, another Standard Poodle who is of no relation. They have their own safe, clean, cozy place to sleep and play. It is smack dab in the middle of the household, so they are exposed to all the usual household sounds: vacuum cleaners, garbage disposals, whistling tea kettles, ringing phones, loud tv's, etc.
- At two weeks, when the puppies eyes are open, I line one half of the whelping box with potty paper. This is the first stage of their housebreaking. The smartest ones will figure it out within hours, as it is completely natural for a puppy to NOT potty where they sleep and eat. I simply accommodate their natural instincts. During this time each puppy has their nails trimmed, and is bottle fed Goat milk supplementally if a large litter. In other words, they are handled and socialized starting at 2 weeks.
- At three weeks when their ears open, I begin feeding them softened kibble (dried kibble soaked in filtered water). I use a soft clap and give the command "Come" when I set the kibble down. This begins obedience training. Once I see that they are tolerating the softened kibble, I add Goat's milk; infinitely preferable to the chemical cocktail that is puppy formula, with the added benefit that the puppies love the Goat milk and usually cannot stand the puppy formula.
- At four weeks, the puppies are routinely dewormed. At this time I add a paper lined play area to a kennel, and take away the whelping box. Between 4-5 weeks, I start taking them outside every two hours from 5a to 10p, no matter the weather. They learn to do their business outside, and they learn to do it rain or shine. They go out with their parents, and this alone is a fabulous training tool. The puppies mimic the adults and it speeds the potty training up immensely.
- During this time I introduce scrambled eggs to their diet. No dry kibble can possibly supply the extra fat that puppies need, and eggs have an incredible amount of nutrients for the little ones.
- At 5 weeks we trim nails again, groom them, and bathe them. They always have dry kibble and water available at this time.
- At 6 weeks, I start completing the weaning process that the mother has already begun. They get bones and healthy things to chew on at this time as they are actively teething and will want to chew constantly to help numb the discomfort (better to give them an outlet than to have them look for one).
- By 7 weeks they are sleeping locked in every night at 10p. Their last soft food is at 5p, and water is taken up by 7p. This gives them plenty of time to empty their bowels before bed time. I sleep within earshot, so if one puppy is particularly fussy, I will take that puppy out in the middle of the night. **BUT**, no cuddling in the middle of the night with your puppy, or you may be woken up every night!
- Around this time they receive vaccinations. They don't need two more sets of shots, that is ridiculous and can cause tremendous health/personality issues immediately and down the road. A Simple and inexpensive Titer test can be administered by a Vet that will demonstrate that they are indeed immune from Parvo and Distemper. Please do not pay your Vet to poison your dog. Please. Yearly boosters may not be necessary either. Always have a Titer test done first.... Of course your adult dog will require a Rabies shot, that is not what I am discussing here.

I should emphasize that these puppies spend an enormous time outside playing everyday. It's a very large part of why they are so intelligent, well adjusted, and happy. Get them outdoors as much as you can!