

# Cream Puff

Labradoodles



## Bonding With Your Puppy

At Cream Puff we pride ourselves on our even tempered puppies. We know how important bonding is with your puppy and it can start as early as 8 weeks old, to a few months old, depending on when you take your puppy home. Our puppies quickly form attachments to their human owners. They are officially part of your pack.

### The First Days

The first few days are a significant bonding time with your puppy. They are excited and/or nervous but still trying to figure out their new environment on their first day home and first day away from us and their littermates.

It's important to spend time playing, exercising, petting and even brushing your puppy. You can socialize your puppy with friends and family and fully vaccinated dogs of family and friends. While you should not take your young puppy to the dog beach or dog park, you can take them on trips in the car to run errands or carry them around the city.

By day two, your puppy will wake up and remember you. They remember all of the love and attention you gave them the day before. Your puppy is quickly learning the benefits of being the only puppy in the home. They may even begin to respond to their new call name. Clearly puppies cannot speak, but as you bond with each other and you learn to understand your puppy's body language, you will recognize when your puppy is stressed or needs a break from all of their new experiences. You should not feel guilty giving your puppy quiet time in his or her crate.

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## Become the Pack Leader

Dogs are pack animals by nature and your puppy will quickly learn they are part of a new pack. They know what to expect when they are with us, but will be looking to determine their status in their new environment. They want a pack leader and if that's not clear, it will fall on them to be alpha which can lead to puppy anxiety.

Creating a routine will help establish your role in the pack and help your puppy understand the new rules in his or her new home. You must be alpha. We strongly suggest positive reinforcement with training, whether through treat or praise training. Both are effective.



## Bedtime

You will need to implement a bedtime routine. Even though your puppy's crate may be on another level of our home to your bedroom, your puppy will still bond with you. A puppy who isn't given crate time during the day and held and played with all day, will have a harder time adjusting to the crate in the evening. We don't leave human babies home alone but we do leave our fur babies home alone. For that reason, you cannot associate human emotions with your puppy's crying. Remember, they are trying to understand their new routine and the new rules of their pack.



This is a special time with your new puppy. They will only be this age for a short time and they will quickly bond with you and the loved ones they are socialized with. The key to bonding with your fur baby, while training, is to be consistent throughout the process.