

## *Male or a female? Which is best for your family?*

Are you wondering whether a male or female puppy is right for you? The following information describes some of the traits common to males and females and may help you decide. Keep in mind, though, that a dog who receives an early spay or neuter (at 4–6 months of age) rarely exhibits any of these gender characteristics. In other words, early spay/neuter will greatly reduce or negate any gender differences.

Within the dog world, females usually rule the roost. They are the ones who determine the pecking order and strive to maintain that order. They are much more intent on displaying dominance by participating in alpha behaviors such as “humping” other dogs. Most fights are generally between two females, both competing for that top position. Females tend to be more territorial, obstinate, and independent than their male counterparts. Males, on the other hand, are usually more steadfast, dependable, loyal and crave more attention from their family. Food is an easy motivator for males and helps in the area of training. Give them a treat for their positive behavior and they continue to exhibit eagerness to please. Their acceptance of other family pets and willingness to bond with children is definitely a plus.

Often people don't want a male as they are known for lifting their leg and urinating on tires, trees, telephone poles, and anything else that suits their fancy. Truth be told, if they are neutered between the ages of 4 1/2 to 6 months of age, greatly reducing testosterone levels, this marking characteristic rarely surfaces. In fact, these males generally won't lift their leg to urinate, nor will they hump at all.

Females will rarely demonstrate a dominance issue with their owner. They are sensitive and also eager to please, coming to you for love and attention, and then leaving as soon as they've gotten their fill. They may show cleverness or be devious in attaining their own agenda. The female also has seasons of being “in heat” unless they have been spayed. This heat cycle typically lasts for 22–28 days, roughly every six to seven or even eight months. During this time a bloody discharge can be left on carpet, furniture, concrete, or anywhere else that she may go. A walk outside during this time can become hazardous if male dogs are in the neighborhood. She will be depositing her “calling card” or scent to every unaltered male in the vicinity, regardless of breed. These males will follow you to your yard and wait for an opportune moment to associate with your female. Many unwanted pregnancies have occurred from these brief encounters.

The above mentioned traits are general gender characteristics of canines. They are not specific to the labradoodle breed. Also, it is important to note that a dog that is spayed or neutered early (between 4–6 months of age) will rarely demonstrate these general characteristics. Thus, in all reality, both male and female labradoodles make GREAT family pets. We feel that the best attitude to have in choosing a new pet for your family is to have no preconceived ideas as to gender, and to just allow yourself to come and fall in love with whichever pup seems to bond best with you. However, we understand that only you can determine which gender will best suit your family, so we are here to answer any questions that you may have and greatly desire the perfect puppy for your home.