

IRISHDOODLES

Earlier this year, several Irish Setter breeders were contacted by individuals seeking stud service or desiring to purchase a puppy with the intent of creating Irishdoodles (Irish Setter x Poodle crossbred). The thought is appalling.

I have heard many arguments in favor of the "Doodle" crosses from their unsuspecting and misinformed owners. Most of these owners have been conned into the idea of a "new breed" with no health problems, no shedding, and wonderful temperaments. Instead, they usually wind up with an unhealthy, shedding and sometimes nasty animal. But it is often difficult to educate someone intent on a Doodle. Remember ISCA's Principles of Integrity specifically requires every member to make every effort to learn about the structure, anatomy, action, behavior and other inheritable traits of the Irish Setter and to use this information to adhere to the breed standard and produce sound, healthy dogs with good temperament. No room for Doodles here.

Dr. Fran Smith has an excellent article on the Labrador Club's website on Labradoodles (printed below) and has graciously allowed for its reprint here. This article offers the perfect answer for anyone considering purchasing or breeding a Doodle or any cross.

LABRADOODLES

The Labrador Retriever Club, Incorporated is dedicated to the health and welfare of the Labrador Retriever breed while conserving the original breed function - that of a "working retriever." A purebred dog offers to his owner the likelihood that he will be a specific size, shape, color and temperament. The predictability of a breed comes from selection for traits that are desirable and away from traits that are undesirable. When a breed standard or type is set, the animals within that breed have less heterozygosity than do animals in a random population

A Labradoodle is nothing more than an expensive crossbred. Because the genetic makeup is diverse from the Poodle genes and the Labrador genes, the resultant first generation (F1) offspring is a complete genetic gamble. The dog may be any size, color, coat texture and temperament. Indeed Labradoodles do shed. Their coat may be wiry or silky and may mat. Body shape varies with parentage but tends to be lanky and narrow. Behavior varies with the dog and within a litter with some puppies poodle-like in attitude and others somewhat like the Labrador Retriever.

The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. is opposed to cross-breeding of dogs and is particularly opposed to the deliberate crossing of Labrador Retrievers with any other breed. These crossbreds are a deliberate attempt to mislead the public with the idea that there is an advantage to these designer dogs. The crossbred dogs are prone to all of the genetic disease of both breeds and offer none of the advantages that owning a purebred dog has to offer.

Frances O. Smith DVM, Ph.D.
LRC, Inc. Board of Directors
Diplomate American College of Theriogenology

June 20, 2005

(For more on Labradoodles read the articles from the AKC Gazette by Mrs. Anne Rogers Clark at <http://www.poodleclubofamerica.org/files/labradoodles.pdf>)

and if you still want one of these so-called designer dogs (Labradoodles, Cockapoos, Poo-shihts), read this article:

“Want a designer dog? Check the pound
Puggles, maltipoos are pricey — and essentially mixed-breed mutts”
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17616672/>