



# Mini Doodler



Enriching one Doodle Owner's life at a Time!

Issue 16

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August 2011

## ALAA Breeder's Roundtable

Santa Monica, California  
October 21–23, 2011

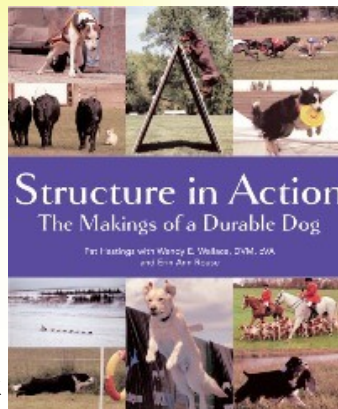
We are excited to announce that the 2011 Breeders' Roundtable will be held in Santa Monica, California this year from October 21st through the 23rd! We look forward to hosting this event on the west coast this year and hope to see many new faces attend this fantastic conference opportunity! Early registration for our Breeder's Roundtable is now available for ALAA Member Breeders.

We are very excited after having been on a waitlist for a number of years to have author Pat Hastings to present her seminar, "Structure in Action". Pat is well respected in dog-world as an educator, author and AKC judge. Well-known for her Puppy Puzzle video, she evaluates the structural quality of over 300 litters per year.

This seminar features Pat Hastings' Puppy Puzzle Presentation, as well as her discussion of the value of structurally evaluating adult dogs that are being considered for a breeding program, working trials or performance competition, along with a veterinarian's perspective on how to reduce the risk of structural injuries in working and performance dogs. You can get a preview of Pat Hastings' work here on YouTube.

### AGENDA

- How to evaluate the structural quality of puppies
- The basics of canine structure
- The weakest links
- How to evaluate the structural quality of your adult dog
- What your dog can do and should not be doing?
- A vet's ideas on how to strengthen structure and reduce the risk of injury
- Questions and hands-on work with attendees' dogs



## ALAA Board of Directors

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## WELCOME TO THE ALAA ...

The ALAA exists to protect the welfare of the Australian Labradoodle and the Labradoodle, as well as to promote responsible ownership by offering services to breeders and owners alike. We are committed to being a leader in this effort. We are working to make a difference.

## Grooming Your Labradoodle

Did you worry the first time you took your Labradoodle for grooming? Would he look like a poodle or would he look like a shaggy sheepdog? Would they save those lashes that are so long and beautiful or would they become victim to the cut? If you have seen cuts you like, collect pictures and share those with your groomer. If you love those lashes, you can never remind them too much to NOT cut the lashes!

Because not all "doodle coats" are the same, there is no simple answer to "what does a doodle cut look like?" A doodle coat with a combination of hair and fleece (and an undercoat) will require different care from a fleece coat or from a wool coat. Whether you have an American or Australian Labradoodle, when it comes to grooming, they all need grooming throughout their lives to keep their coat in the best possible condition, and to avoid excessive tangling and matting. If you begin the process of grooming when your dog is very young (between 2 and 4 months is a good time to begin), you'll find that he is comfortable and that he may actually even enjoy the procedure of being brushed daily.

To condition your dog to accepting regular grooming, it is important to start light brushing or combing at an early age. All puppies, Labradoodles included, will "shed" their puppy coat around 8 - 10 months of age and the adult coat will come in, a process that can take up to six months. It is important to brush your dog's coat in the direction of the growth at least weekly to help the process along. Some groomers will suggest keeping your puppy's hair short during this time to minimize matting.

The most important thing you can do for your Labradoodle is to comb or brush your dog's coat at least once weekly to prevent severe matting. Matting begins at the roots and oc-

curs when the loose dead hair gets trapped in the fur and forms a tangled mess.

The most common areas subject to matting include the base of the ears, the armpits and between the toes. De-matting a coat is very time consuming, not to mention painful for your dog; prevention of severe matting is worth the weekly brushing effort. Matting is not only unattractive; it can also be painful to the dog by pulling and tugging at the skin. Many groomers will recommend shaving the dog if matting is too severe. Shaving the coat can subject your Labradoodle to the effects of extreme temperature including sunburn or hypothermia.



Some general rules of thumb include:

- ◇ Before bathing your Labradoodle, always brush/comb out the fur completely to remove any matts and tangles. Thin out any matts with thinning shears.
- ◇ Always use a gentle shampoo designed for dogs.
- ◇ Ear length should be level with beard length
- ◇ Hair should frame the face. Trim the muzzle to an equal length all around to create a casual rounded appearance.
- ◇ Trim hair near eyes so the dog's vision is unobstructed.

There are a number of websites as well YouTube videos which demonstrate professional grooming for labradoodles.

Enjoy!

## Did You Know...?

Many houseplants, flowering plants and perennials are toxic to dogs.

From A to Z, which of the following plants are toxic to your dog?

Thank you [ASPCA](#) for sharing!

[African Daisy](#)

[Aloe](#)

[Azalea](#)

[Bachelor's Button](#)

[Bamboo Palm](#)

[Begonia](#)

[Christmas Cactus](#)

[Cinquefoil \(Potentilla\)](#)

[Coleus](#)

[Daffodil](#)

[Peace Lily](#)

[Rhubarb](#)

[Zinnia](#)



# Dog Days of Summer

## FROZEN DOG POPSICLES



This is one of those dog treat recipes that dogs who love crunching on ice cubes will LOVE!

1-2 cups **Low-Sodium** Chicken or Beef Stock

Pour stock into an ice cube tray (or 2!) and freeze. What could be easier?!



## FROZEN YOGIS



This is a fantastic cool treat for hot afternoons. This dog treat recipe is quick, easy and sure to delight!

### Ingredients:

32-oz container of vanilla yogurt (if you're watching your doodle's waistline, make it fat free) 1 c. smooth peanut butter

### Directions:

In a microwaveable bowl, microwave the peanut butter until it is melted.

When it's melted, add the yogurt and mix well.

Spoon the mixture into paper muffin liners or a muffin tin.

Freeze until hardened.



## Peanut Butter Banana Pups



### Ingredients:

1 banana 1/2 c. peanut butter (smooth or chunky)

1/4 c. wheat germ 1/4 c. chopped peanuts (no need, if you use chunky peanut butter!)

Combine the mashed banana, peanut butter and nuts (optional). Mix in the wheat germ. Put it in the fridge for about an hour. Serve!

You can find more fun summer recipes for your doodle at <http://www.dogtreatrecipes.org>

## ENCOUNTERS WITH A SNAKE

If you frequently hike or otherwise enjoy the great outdoors with your pet, please take care to prevent painful encounters with snakes.

Bites occur most often in between March and October when snakes are most active. Snakes can be found in almost any environment—wetlands, deserts, mountainous areas. Dogs are naturally curious and often put their noses in unsafe places.

According to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), a snake bite is always considered an emergency—a venomous snake bite can be fatal if not treated immediately, and even a bite from a non-venomous snake can be dangerous for your pets.



The best thing to do for your pet is to prevent snakebites, rather than provide costly treatment. Vaccination can reduce the overall effects of snakebite, reduce or eliminate the need for anti-venom, and decrease other treatment costs as well. Check

with your vet about a vaccine for rattlesnakes available in your area.

### IMPORTANT POINTS:

- When walking your pet, keep them on a leash steering clear of long grasses, rocks and bushes where snakes might be hiding.
- Snakes can strike across a distance equal to about half of their length. If you see a snake head back the way you came.
- Familiarize yourself with snakes that are common in your area. In the event of a bite, identifying the type of snake may help with your pet's treatment.

## RAINY DAYS and STORMY NIGHTS

Thunderstorm season is feared by dogs and their owners alike. Some dogs exhibit fear and anxiety to the unfamiliar sounds of thunder and other loud noises. The most common reactions include shaking, panting, drooling, whimpering and hiding. The more phobic dog may lose bathroom control, chew through walls and doors and may even try to run away or injure themselves trying to escape.

Why does this happen to some dogs and not to others? There are many theories as to why this may occur. There are two critical periods in a puppy's development between 8 weeks and twelve weeks of age when they are extremely vulnerable to physical and psychological stimulation. Some

puppies are frightened by a sound during a critical period of brain development around two months



of age and therefore continue to be afraid of noise as they age. Many puppies arrive at their forever homes just as they are entering these critical periods. It is es-

timated that one-third of all dogs are affected by fear of loud noises including thunder.

While a natural reaction is to try to calm and soothe your fearful dog, in reality the most appropriate response you can have is to remain confident and relaxed, communicating by your confidence that there is nothing for your dog to worry about.

Hiding is a natural response for your dog. Providing them with a safe place such as a kennel if you have crate trained your pet is a good way to protect your pet during the storm.

You might also consider a "thunder shirt" that has shown some success in calming an anxiety-prone dog by providing a snug fit around the dog reducing their anxiety and creating a sense of calm. You can read more about the "thunder shirt" at <http://www.thundershirt.com> and they offer a money-back guarantee.

# RUN, JUMP, PLAY

As humans are working longer hours and leading more hectic lives, studies show that dogs are spending more time at home sleeping, eating and consequently gaining weight.

Exercise benefits not only you but it benefits your faithful companion. It is one of the best ways to spend time with your dog. Boredom and lack of physical activity are common reasons behavior problems develop in dogs. Not only is exercise fun, but it keeps you and your pet healthy and happy, too.

Daily walks might be enough for some dogs; others need more intense workouts. You can also add a game of “hide and seek” or create a more interesting walk by finding obstacles for your dog to climb, crawl under or jump over.



*Your dog will sleep better, have more energy, and have good, strong bones and muscles.*

*Best of all, so will you!*

Walking, jogging, running, hiking and swimming are great fun for your dog. Whatever you do, exercise should be fun. A good way to make exercise fun is with toys such as a ball launcher or Frisbee.

A “launcher” can launch balls farther, which is great for sporting and retriever breeds. This creates a much better challenge, both mentally and physically for your dog.

“Chuck It” is a popular brand of launchers. The toy has a long handle that really sends the ball flying. There is no bending required to pick up the ball and the best thing of all is you never have to touch a slobbery ball!

Agility is a dog sport which originated in the 1970’s. While a competitive sport, agility can also be a perfect way to challenge your Labradoodle in a “playground” designed to take your pooch through a number of jumps and obstacles. If you have never seen an agility course, check out this [YouTube video](#) of a Labradoodle going through some moves.

Remember to provide your Labradoodle with plenty of water and rest stops to cool down his paws. Just as you should start off a new exercise program slowly, so should your dog to prevent strained muscles and sore pads. Avoid exercising your dog during the hottest part of the day to avoid heat stroke. Avoid bicycling, skateboarding or rollerblading with your dog as accidents are common.

How do you know if your dog has gotten an appropriate amount of exercise? He runs to the water bowl and flops with a wag!

You can find more valuable tips and information on exercising your dog at the [ALAA website here](#).



We hope you enjoyed our new edition of the Mini Doodler!

Planned quarterly items will include:

- ◇ Feature Story
- ◇ Did You Know? (Facts and Interesting Information related to Doodles/Dogs)
- ◇ ALAA Information about Events/Items of Interest
- ◇ Seasonal Recipes your Doodle Will Love
- ◇ Short Seasonal Articles
- ◇ Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!

Please send in your photos with your name and identify who is in your pictures to [newsletter@ilainc.com](mailto:newsletter@ilainc.com) . Our next issue will focus on fall activities and recipes you can share with your

### “The Dog Days of Summer”

This phrase originated from the ancient Greeks and Romans and is often referred to as “die caniculares”, “Days of the Dog” or simply “Dog Days”. The phrase is used to refer to the extreme heat and miserable conditions that arrive with it each year. This time period was considered to be an evil period by many people. Although it is no longer true, it was once thought that the heat was from Sirius, the Dog Star.

