

The Cockapoo draws its characteristics from both of its parent breeds. From the Cocker Spaniel, the Cockapoo inherits most of his personality traits, such as being outgoing and loving and having a strong and sturdy body. The Poodle inheritance includes intelligence, high activity level, low-level shedding, and low dander production.

The American Kennel Club does not recognize the Cockapoo as a purebred because successive generations do not consistently produce predictable characteristics of the breed. For example, if you bred two poodles to each other, you are passing on to the puppies pretty similar DNA from both sides. Therefore, you would expect that the puppies would look similar to both of the parents and would be likely to have the desirable characteristics responsible breeders try to promote by selectively breeding only the most outstanding examples of the poodle breed.

You've heard the old joke: "She has her grandmother's face...and boy, does it look better without the wrinkles!" The point is that certain familial traits are passed from one side of the family or the other, and each side has very different DNA. This is what happens when you cross two different breeds to create a hybrid. Any given puppy may inherit mostly Cocker characteristics or mostly Poodle characteristics or a mish-mash of both. This is why we never know what we're going to get with a new litter. We often have people call and ask what our next litter will be (color, sex, size, etc.) because you are producing a hybrid they take on traits of each parent and each litter is a great surprise!

A breed standard simply cannot be devised at this time that will apply to most Cockapoos because there is a huge variance in looks and temperament from dog to dog depending on which parent breed they favor. This is why Cockapoo puppies do not come with registration, although the parents may be registered, because you are producing a hybrid that is not recognized as a breed the puppies are not able to be registered as a purebred dog.

Some purebred breeders will tell you that a hybrid dog inherits only the worst tendencies of each of the parent breeds. This may be a glass half-full vs. glass half-empty type of argument. What Cockapoo breeders have noted is that the Cocker-Poodle mix brings out the best in both breeds, known as hybrid vigor. In fact, Cockapoos have a longer life span than many dogs of their size, living as long as 18 to even 22 years. In addition, by crossing two different breeds, you are enlarging the gene pool, thus reducing the chances that defects will be reproduced in successive generations. Another reason why they are such great dogs!!

The Poodles most commonly bred to Cocker Spaniels are the toy and miniature. The Toy Poodle stands less than 10 inches and weighs just 6 to 9 pounds. The Miniature Poodle stands 10 - 15 inches and weighs 15 to 17 pounds. The Cocker itself stands 14 to 17 inches tall and weighs 25 to 34 pounds. The mating produces a Cockapoo somewhere in between the two, standing 10 - 15 inches tall and weighing 6 - 20 pounds. Here at cute cockapoos we have one or two toy female poodles and the rest are miniature so our pups are an average of 16-22lbs, but depending on what parent they take after their sizes

always vary so we are unable to guarantee what size the pup will for sure be, but we can give you a good estimate.

The coat of a Cockapoo may be any color. The style ranges, as you might expect, from the defined curls of a Poodle to the wavy, nearly straight, hair of a Cocker. The fur around the eyes is generally trimmed to prevent the dog's vision from being obscured. Other than that, the fur may be clipped to a 2 - 3" "puppy cut" or left naturally long, which requires brushing to prevent tangles. The tail is undocked and may be carried straight or curled.

So what makes a Cockapoo a Cockapoo? There are many variations of the breed which occur through different breeding programs, all depending on your breeder and what they want to create. An example would be using an American or English Cocker and the Poodle can be a Standard, Miniature, or Toy.

The breed is also bred by generation therefore you can use purebred Cockers/Poodles or also use Cockapoos themselves for breeding. For example a purebred Cocker Spaniel bred to a purebred Poodle will create a Cockapoo known as a first generation or F1 Cockapoo. An F1 Cockapoo bred to another F1 Cockapoo will create a second generation Cockapoo F2. An F1 Cockapoo bred back to a purebred Cocker or purebred Poodle creates a Cockapoo puppy known as an F1b Cockapoo with the B showing that the dog was bred back to a purebred Cocker or Poodle. A generation can move up when two of the same generation are bred together but all are still considered Cockapoos because they are still a mix of the Cocker Spaniel/Poodle DNA. By combining the DNA of two purebreds it is thought to bring out the best of both breeds to create the Cockapoo. By crossing the two breeds it is said to enlarge the gene pool therefore reducing the chances of genetic defects being spread throughout the generations.

Cocker Spaniel (any type) bred to a Poodle (any size) = F1 Cockapoo

Poodle (any size) bred to a Cocker Spaniel (any type)= F1 Cockapoo

F1 Cockapoo bred to a purebred Cocker or purebred Poodle = F1b Cockapoo

F1 Cockapoo bred to another F1 Cockapoo= F2 Cockapoo (second generation)

Cockapoos are a great, loyal, and friendly breed of dog and are excellent for families! They generally have a calm, mellow disposition, are sweet and patient in nature, have high intelligence, loyalty, friendliness, sturdiness, stamina, and good health.

Here is another nice article that I found and copied to give you some more info. on the breed:

As you would think from the name - a Cockapoo is a cross between a cocker spaniel and a poodle. Cockapoos have been recognized by the American people as a very special cross since about 1960.

Cockapoos can be any size from the smallest poodle in the poodle's recent pedigree to the largest cocker in the cocker's recent pedigree, to potentially a

little larger due to hybrid vigor. Thus, if the poodle is the biggest poodle in the litter but the genes carry smaller it is possible to get something smaller than either parent. This is not normally the case but it could happen. Of course, the same goes for the other end of the scale. The national average by poll of 500 Cockapoo owners was 15lbs, this reflecting the usual use of a toy poodle at 8 lbs and an average cocker spaniel at 22 lbs. A teacup poodle and a toy cocker could produce a 2 lb Cockapoo, while a standard poodle and large cocker have produced a 65 pound Cockapoo.

Cockapoos will almost always show strong characteristics of both parents. They could lean a little to poodle or a little to cocker. Some may be a little curlier and some may have blockier heads but they definitely show both parents in a unique way that is what gives cockapoos such a special look, but it is highly unlikely they would inherit a predominance of genes from either parent. Second generation has the highest incidence of pups that will lean more to the looks of either parent breed. This does not make 2nd generation bad – just something to be aware of. By 3rd generation very few if any throwbacks are seen just as in 1st generation and 4th generation on this almost never happens.

In getting the best of both worlds Cockapoos acquire a keen intelligence, more from the poodle (which has consistently ranked among the world's smartest dogs) than from the cocker (which is not a criticism, but cockers are not noted for high intelligence). Cockapoos get some sturdiness from the cocker - as cockers have heavier bone structure. The cocker also contributes a laid back attitude towards life as well as considerable 'sweetness' as long as the breeder has chosen both parents based on temperament in addition to the important factors of looks and genetic soundness. The hair coat of the Cockapoo tends to be wavy but not as tightly curled neither as the poodle nor absolutely straight like some cockers. Poodles are noted for longevity as are hybrids giving the Cockapoo a double dose of longevity. (Average life expectancy by poll appears to be 15 to 18 years.)

The indeterminate hair type of the poodle (continuous growth of approximately ½ inch a month) contributes the low to no shedding characteristic to the Cockapoo, while the cocker adds some silkiness. The resulting hair type is also very low allergenic - without an undercoat producing excess dander.

Cockapoos are noted for their wonderful dispositions and great tolerance of the indiscretions of children, with a very forgiving nature.

Thus, for people wanting a low to no odor and low to no shedding, highly intelligent dog that is easy to train and absolutely wonderful for children of all ages, playful and energetic but easy to care for, and that will be around for a while, the ideal dog is the Cockapoo.

A Cockapoo is exactly what it sounds like 1/2 cocker spaniel and 1/2 poodle. It is not a mutt but a hybrid. A mutt can be anything that had canine parentage. A hybrid is a cross between two known entities. A breed is formed through careful record keeping over the generations until a certain ideal is well established and reproducing or breeding true.

First or Beyond Generation Cockapoo?

Most Cockapoos you see are first generation (that is, a Cocker and Poodle cross (this is called F1), but there are increasing numbers of second and even third (any generation after first is breeding Cockapoo to Cockapoo). Breeding Cockapoo to Cockapoo is increasing as the hybrid endures and breeders continue to develop it. Breeding down through the generations helps to stabilize size and looks, with size the more important factor. For example, an 8 lb poodle and a 25 lb cocker could produce 8 to perhaps 30 lb pups (hybrid vigor can increase size as well as factoring in anything in the recent bloodline of either parent). The 2nd generation (F2) can have the "grandfather effect", producing more of the original poodle or cocker in looks. By the 3rd generation (F3) things start to stabilize in size and looks. F2's and beyond can have more color variation as the mix of color genes becomes stronger. By F7 a breed is basically established to minimal variation and is arguably (both scientifically and within the dog fancy) a breed.

As a Cockapoo puppy buyer you should be more concerned with the characteristics of the individual dog than the generation. There can be some variation in any generation but if you let your breeder know what it is you are looking for in a pup they can help you select the best pup for your family. No matter the generation, as long as health, temperament and looks (which is the entire package that makes the dog) -are paid attention to, you should be fine. Let the breeders worry about breeding the generations for science and what have you - and as an owner concentrate on choosing the best dog for your family. People getting hung up on the "perfect" specimen for any breed is what pushed so many of the known breeds into the problems they have now with health and temperament due to inbreeding - these are the things that we are working so hard to avoid in the development of the Cockapoo. Just as you would not worry about what generation a cocker or poodle or any other now-known breed is if you were to choose a puppy, you shouldn't be worrying about it now as a Cockapoo owner or would-be owner; the prime concern should be the best dog for you and your family.

Here is another great article I copied off of the website www.cockapoo crazy.com I feel it's a good description of the Cockapoo breed and explains that you need to put in effort to keep them happy and healthy:

Cockapoos have quite a unique canine temperament, as any owner will tell you!

This hybrid mix of poodle and spaniel has a quirky personality and manner of thinking that is important to understand if you are going to get on well with your pet. Individual dogs, like people, have their own quirks. Yet there are some things about the Cockapoo temperament and disposition which we can safely ascertain from our years of research, anecdotal evidence, and experiences with these dogs.

Cockapoos are remarkably intelligent. Combining two of the smartest dog breeds, the poodle and cocker spaniel, seems to have produced a good number of doggy geniuses. As such, they train easily, and can be taught to do almost anything.

This intelligence has a dark side, which is boredom. If you own, or plan to own, a Cockapoo, be prepared to keep him busy. These are energetic dogs, and they need stimulation, both physical and intellectual, in order to avoid behavioral and psychological issues.

Although aggression or other destructive behaviors are not overly common in these animals, they are a possibility if the dog is left alone all the time, mistreated, ill, or not exercised and socialized. In all of the cases we have seen or heard of regarding aggression or destructive tendencies in a Cockapoo, one of these factors has been the culprit.

Generally, Cockapoos are highly affectionate, outgoing, and become playful at the drop of a hat. But they have one trait that stands out above the rest. In June, we conducted a poll of our members, asking them to choose one word that best describes their Cockapoo's personality. 108 members responded, and *70% of them chose the word FRIENDLY.*

These are happy, friendly dogs by nature. They crave the company of their owners. They are always ready to play, and when trained properly, are very good with children and other pets. Cockapoos are the stars of the dog park, interacting amicably and provoking quieter dogs into play. They run like the wind, and act like puppies well into old age.

They are also incredibly intuitive, and will pick up on your routines, attitude, and emotions. All of which leads us to another key point about the Cockapoo temperament.

Cockapoos are extremely sensitive animals, which is why they are good therapy dogs. They react to your emotional state. If you are angry, upset, unstable, or otherwise insecure, your Cockapoo is bound to try to address those issues. For instance, a crying owner will attract the kisses and love of a concerned Cockapoo. Once in a while everyone has issues, but long-term issues can lead to problems for your dog. For instance, a constantly anxious owner will create a nervous wreck of an animal. So try to remain calm around your Cockapoo, especially during training and other formative moments.

A calm minded owner creates a calming effect on her dog's mind.

Obstacle courses, agility training, swimming, and chasing balls are all good outlets for Cockapoos. Puzzles, like toys with a treat that needs to be carefully extricated, will help keep your Cockapoo's mind busy. Strong, safe synthetic bones (Cockapoos are surprisingly powerful chewers) can also relieve stress and tension, while exercising the dog's jaws and cleaning his teeth.

Do not expect this canine genius to sit around the house all day, staring at the walls or the inside of a crate! You couldn't deal with it, and neither can your dog. A Cockapoo subjected to this situation is bound to develop bad habits, like barking incessantly, scratching himself raw, destroying things around the house, jumping on people, inappropriate elimination, or even nervous peeing! I cannot overstate it: your dog needs outlets to unleash his energy, intellect, and emotions, such as walks, play, socializing, and training.

We have actually written a free book detailing our method for Cockapoo Obedience Training, which will walk you step-by-step through the vital process of giving your Cockapoo basic training. Follow those steps, and our tips above and you will bring out only the best parts of the Cockapoo personality and traits: undying affection, a sweet and gentle disposition, a remarkable doggy IQ, plenty of energy when you want to get up and move, and a puppy-like playfulness and personality!

To learn even more about Cockapoos, check out *The Cockapoo Owner's Handbook*, which contains nearly 150 pages of pure cockapoo information. It is a densely packed, picture-free book, and has everything you need to know to become an expert on your pooch!