

# Cream Puff

## Labradoodles



## Leash Manners

One of the most important skills you can teach your puppy is how to walk on a leash. Walking your puppy will not only improve responsiveness and obedience, but will provide necessary exercise. Be patient and consistent. Remember, if your puppy isn't too happy with your walks at first, it doesn't mean you won't share lots of great walks together in the near future.

### Adjusting to a Collar & Leash

Choosing a collar and leash doesn't have to be overthought or complicated. We recommend picking out a light collar and leash to start out. You want to allow your puppy to get used to having something around their neck. As your puppy grows, you can buy a bigger collar and leash.



It's important to make sure your puppy is comfortable in their collar. Make sure it isn't too tight, but tight enough. You should be able to fit two fingers comfortably between your puppy's neck and the collar. If there's more space than that, your puppy may try to chew their collar and their jaw can get stuck in the slack. Every dog reacts differently, but if they persistently scratch or try to chew their collar, you can bring out their favorite treat or toy, put the collar on when they aren't paying attention, then reward them. You can also try putting it on while playing with them. Try to keep their collar on at all times, unless you are bathing them, to establish normalcy.

When introducing the leash, start at home to minimize distraction. First attach the leash, then drop your end of it. Try playing with your puppy with the leash on making sure they don't get tangled up. Here or there pick up the leash and call them to come to you, rewarding them with a treat when they do.



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## Creating a Reward System

One of the easiest ways to reward your puppy is with treats. Big treats may take attention away from the technique you are working on. Small treats allow your puppy to eat quickly while you still have their attention.

An effective reward system we like to use is clicker training. A clicker is a great way to let your dog know they are doing something right. Press the clicker to get their attention and immediately reward them when they listen.

## Curbing Bad Behavior

You want to create a calm environment for your dog when it's time to go for a walk. Some dogs get very excited when they see the leash. If this happens, stand calmly until they calm down as well. Your dog will most likely reciprocate your energy if you continue to remain calm throughout walks. If your dog seems nervous while walking, bend down in front of them to pet/comfort them. Reassure them that it's okay for them to continue walking.



If your puppy walks ahead of you, they think they are leading you. Your puppy should walk at your side. Once you pick a side, be consistent with your puppy, walking on that same side each time you go for a walk.

Bad behavior will naturally occur during your puppy's growing process. When they behave badly, don't get angry or yell. If your puppy pulls on the leash, immediately stop walking. Call your puppy back to you and give them a treat when they return. Don't yank the leash as it won't teach them anything. Letting your dog know that they don't get anywhere when they pull will teach them to quickly change that habit. If they sit or lie down, walk a few steps and call them. When your puppy comes to you, reward them with a treat and continue your walk. Repeat this throughout the walk.

With patience and consistency, your puppy will feel comfortable on the leash and will start to enjoy walks.