

## Letter from the Editor sent to Mr Keith Irwin, Chairman, Dogs NSW

Hi Keith, been looking up labradoodles since our chat, various people claim on the internet to have generational labradoodles, I am not sure what that means? Very clever marketing in our opinion, to hone in on the allergy free side of things, and really deceptive as well, because there are many PUREBREDS which are also allergy free and non shedding, Lagottos and Poodles to name two (strange co-incidence isn't it?) and we are appalled by their clearly stated confident claims that they will very soon be accepted by the ANKC and subsequently as an Australian breed world wide, dear lord!

They claim to have a breed standard but it really is not a proper one, and they claim they are already a breed which is not true, they are a deliberate commercially constructed commodity.

They make many claims about what they are doing to develop a breed (evolving?) and say that there can now only be five different

breeds involved in the production of a puppy, but nowhere can I find what the mix is or how often they have gone out and how many mixes are involved in a single animal etc.

I am also appalled that they confidently state they will have three size varieties and two coat varieties – again the inference is that this is what will be accepted by the ANKC – when the ANKC is making it impossible for the Peruvian Hairless, an officially recognised FCI breed competing seriously at events like World shows, Eurodog, Finnish Winner of Winners (average entry 7000 All Breeds) etc, to be able to function in this country, as they are insisting that the size and coat varieties in this breed be kept completely separate, an impossible ask in a breed with such a small gene pool world wide. So I fear that the scuttlebutt about an “evolving group” being recognised by Dogs NSW may well be true and first cab off the rank entering our conformation show rings is going to be the labradoodle.

We – and many of our readers – anxiously await your assurance as discussed that this is not under consideration by Dogs NSW.

Further to the article **MARKETING MUTTS** page 12 of our last issue... From: Linda Hartheimer What a surprise - these designer dogs have health problems and temperament issues! Now that they are starting to show up in shelters, how come their designer breeders who charged the big bucks aren't acting responsibly and taking them back?

### MINI SAINTS and SAINT crosses - Responsible Breeding? We don't think so!

[https://breederinfocenter.com/index.php?a\\_id=20061024220255](https://breederinfocenter.com/index.php?a_id=20061024220255)

Puppies from deliberate crossings of St Bernards with Cocker Spaniels and a variety of other breeds are being promoted. As one breeder said to us, “If this accidentally happened you couldn't get to a vet quickly enough could you, to have the puppies aborted if possible? Surely it is placing the life of the dam at risk if she is the Cocker? And if it was the other way around? Well - unlikely! Do you think they are using AI to produce these puppies?” Go have a look - it should make you scream, wrote another breeder

Litter of Mini Saints born on January 8th, 2007! We still have 1 female puppy available in this litter! Much lower shedding than purebred Saints, and no drool! Very cute, calm, smart, little dogs that mature around 13 to 14 inches tall, and 20 to 25 pounds.

Charma, a brown & white female Mini Saint is pictured here. She is available for \$600. Here is a Mini Saint pup from a previous litter. They are so adorable, smart, fun, and unique! (Not available, he has been sold.)

This pup is a Saint/Cocker cross! He is sold, but we have more Saint cross puppies due to be born in March of 2007! Preborn deposits accepted. These pups will all mature bigger than the Minis, but much smaller than Purebred Saints, and also have less health problems, and a longer life span!

This is another Saint/Cocker pup from a previous litter! They look so much like purebred Saints, with a little longer ears, and smaller! We will have more litters born in May and/or June of 2007! Preborn Deposits accepted. All brown & white puppies expected!

See our web site to read how we breed these wonderful Miniature Saint Bernard puppies! <http://dakotawinds.homestead.com/Saintpedigree.html> (ND editor's note: and you will find much more that will amaze you!)

### MR IRWIN'S RESPONSE

Keith Irwin, President of Dogs NSW said that there has not been any application made to Dogs NSW, in reference to recognising any evolving breed (particularly the Labradoodle). Rumours that Dogs NSW had agreed to participate in an “evolving breed development program” and had allocated funding for same, are absolutely false and are completely denied.

Dogs NSW will again be manning its Breed Information Centre at the Sydney Royal and every effort will be made to promote to the hundreds of thousands attending the Royal, the benefits of our pure bred dogs and our Organisation.

Mr Irwin went on to say that he is totally opposed to any designer dog breed being promoted or supported in any way by Dogs NSW and believed that all members of the Board of Directors held similar views.

<http://www.news4jax.com/family/11053644/detail.html>

## Purebreds Passé? Designer Dogs Woo Pet Owners Mixed-Breed Dogs Fetching High Prices

OMAHA, Neb. -- Mixed-breed dogs used to be called mutts, but now breeders (ND editor's note: read as “producers”) are combining bloodlines to create “designer dogs.” Breeders (producers) said they hope to get the best traits of both breeds, and they are getting hundreds of dollars for the animals.

“It's amazing how many different dogs people want because they saw this on the Internet, or saw this in another pet store, or they saw this on TV -- some of them I've never even heard of,” said pet store owner Lorraine Charlie.

Purebreds are becoming passé as breeders and pet store owners watch mixed purebreds offering owners more choices.

“I think it's interesting to see what different breeds will produce together,” said Julie Tully, a kennel owner. “Sometimes it's a better product of the two parents.”

Charlie said one such pairing -- the “teddy bear” -- mixes a Bichon Frise and a Shitzu. At Tully's, they offer the “multi-poo.” “This is half Maltese, half toy Poodle,” Julie Tully said. Charlie said anything mixed with a “poo”-dile flies out of her store.

Linda Heckman purchased her designer dog, Sadie, five months ago. “I like the way she looked. There was enough of the terrier/schnauzer look to her that I've always liked,” Heckman said. The desire

for designer dogs goes beyond purely cosmetic pursuits. A “schnoodle” is a crossbreed of a Schnauzer and a Poodle. Breeders said they're often bred together because Poodles are non-shedding. (ND editor: and they conveniently fail to mention the input from the Schnauzer coat!)

Heckman said that's what drew her to schnoodle Sadie. She needed a hypoallergenic dog. “Needed the basis of the Poodle, but I didn't really care for Poodles for looks, so the schnoodle is perfect,” Heckman said.

Experts said perfection is not what you should expect from a designer dog. “You're playing genetic crapshoot there,” said animal behavioralist Denise Gurrff. “You're going to get what comes out and you're not going to know for the next 10 years how that dog actually turned out.” Gurrff said she saw pet stores reject the “golden doodle,” which combined a Golden Retriever and a Poodle. “Somebody thought they were getting a sweet little Poodle -- what they got was (the input from) a sweet Golden Retriever that's high energy and ready to rock,” she said

Gurrff said there's no real way to predict if a dog will have a certain temperament. In some cases, she said, crossing purebreds such as Pugs and Dachshunds can make an unhealthy pup. “You're getting a dog that might have a weak rear-end and a dog that might have all sorts of breathing problems,” Gurrff said.

Tully agreed that not every combination is ideal. “Sometimes it's difficult to sell some of the crossbreed puppies. I think the labradoodle is the perfect example. You don't know if they're going to shed. You don't what their hair's going to look like. Some are cute and fluffy and some have straggly hair,” she said.

Heckman said her designer dog is the perfect companion. “You're just like my baby, aren't you?” Heckman said, petting Sadie.

## James Valentine 702 ABC excerpts

# Phone-in re “Designer Dogs”

JAMES...You're on 702ABC Sydney. You know, I was at the pet shop, in fact we were purchasing a hermit crab. But of course you have a bit of a browse at the dogs and there was, I think it was a King Charles cross with a Fox Terrier and I can't remember what they'd called it, something like a Troxie or a King Fox or, you know, Charlie the Terrier. But it was a great little dog and it just highlighted the fact that everything now seems to be a kind of hybrid, a cross-breed. I guess not a hybrid but the cross breed dog is the dog of the day. I think we're very familiar with the Labradoodle, the crossing of the Labrador and the Poodle. But so far as we know, we also have Schnoodles Schnauzers and Poodles. We've got Spoodles, Spaniels and Poodles. I don't know what a Groodle is. I'm not sure what a Statadore, a Cavadore or Tremadore or even a Roodle is, but they are allegedly all out there and doing well. Are these things actually breeds? And if you've got one how are they going? 1300 222 702 is our number if you'd like to give us a yell. We'd love to hear what your experience has

been. John Gosling is with Guide Dogs Victoria and joins us this afternoon. The Labradoodle is a creation of the Royal Guide Dog Association?

JOHN That's correct. Yes. That was a program that we set up in, back in the early 90s with specific requirements for a client in Hawaii, of all places. We had a gentleman there whose wife needed a dog. We tried in the first instance standard Poodles but we weren't able to identify an individual dog suited to the profile of the client, so we looked at crossing a Labrador with a standard Poodle. The intent was that we had a dog that was, first of all, suitable for a guide dog, but secondly, because the client's, husband had an allergy to dogs, we had to try to determine that we had one that was suited to her.

JAMES So usually people who are allergic to dogs are not allergic to Poodles, is that it?

JOHN No, it's not entirely it. In fact, that was the hypothesis we had in the first instance. We thought that was the case but at the end of it all we determined there's no scientific basis for that at all.

The reality is that to go through the process, it's necessary to have a hair sample, a skin scraping and a saliva sample from the individual dog and for that to be tested by an allergist with the individual who has the allergy to dogs.

JAMES Right. Okay. So, this desire, or this call, led to the Labradoodle?

JOHN It did indeed.

JAMES What did you notice, what came out of this or are you perhaps surprised by how popular it's become?

JOHN Yes, very surprised. In fact, our exporter who takes dogs, guide dogs, overseas for us, said it's the most common, if I say “breed” in commas, of dog to go to the United States. So there's an enormous demand for it and in fact obviously it's started to take off everywhere in the world now, there seems to be a desire for it and why it generally works, James, is the fact that the Poodle and the Labrador are two excellent breeds. The Poodle, in fact, is a hunting dog in the first instance. And a Labrador is also a companion-based dog that was initially a hunting dog or a farm dog.

JAMES So bring the two together and you've got a great dog. Have you noticed, there seems to be this rise, I mean, I feel like I'm hearing this, in this cross breeding thing everywhere?

JOHN Yes. Well, you know, just, an idea sort of starts and people look to market

it in many different ways. And, you know, I guess in some ways it's no different than the fifties when I was a child too, you know, the most common breed was a mongrel and – of course, that's what the mongrel was, just a crossing of, as it was described, two or more breeds.

JAMES Usually a little more random, involving getting over the back fence or something, isn't it?

JOHN Yes, that was the case. Yes, local dogs.

JAMES John, good to talk to you. Thank you for, helping me in our discussion this afternoon. Are there any new things planned for guide dogs? Are you continuing this sort of process?

JOHN Actually, what we are crossing at the moment, we've just proven it to be very successful with guide dogs around the world, is Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever and those two, well-established breeds as guide dogs in their own right, started in the UK where they found that they were able to achieve a cross which was a dog that had the sort of initiative and stability of the Labrador, but also Golden Retrievers which are, very much, maintenance-free type dogs (training) to the point that if they learn a route they're very, very happy just to keep producing that route, and so, with more women needing guide dogs than men these days, just as women have had the opportunity of catching up with

ways of education and getting out to study, to work, to have families and the like, so there's a need for guide dogs that are more suited to women.

JAMES Good to talk to you, John. The dog you're referring to I would imagine is called the Retrievalor. Sounds a little bit like a type of fridge, but apparently a fine dog. 1300 222 702 is our number. We're talking about the cross breeds that seem very popular at the moment. Sue, you've got a Schnoodle?

SUE I have. Well, that's the name that was on the tag, James. But when I brought it home my son said “Sue, mum, that's a Shitpoo”.

JAMES It's a Shitpoo? So what, it's a Poodle crossed with a –

SUE Shitpoo.

JAMES A Shitpoo!

SUE Shitpoo and the tag in the pet shop was Schnoodle, which was very polite.

JAMES I think that's a lot more respectful than what your son used, which we can only get away with once this afternoon.

SUE Yes. And the other thing is my last dog was a Labrado, and I had chronic hay fever, chronic asthma with that dog. I have had nothing with this Shoodle. I can rub her in my face and do everything, James.

JAMES That's what you want from a dog, isn't it?

SUE Oh, definitely. (continued p 13)