

Golden Gate Labradoodles: Fall 2022 Breeding Plan

UPDATED November 11th, 2022. Please see below for our program plans for puppies going home through early March 2023. **(If you read the document in your email browser, you can view the numerous links to current photos and other stories.)** I always plan on under-reserving each litter, so I often have 1 or 2 puppies which I offer later on in the process when they are old enough to evaluate in terms of temperament (see our placement policies below).

*All of these breeding dogs have been tested with qualifying results either the PennHIP or Orthopedic Foundation For Animals (OFA) hip testing methodologies (or both of them) for hips and elbows, and have all testing completed required for registration with the [Australian Labradoodle Club of America \(ALCA\)](#), and/or with the Australian Labradoodle Association of America (ALAA) including eye exams, PRA clearances, as well as further screenings for a broad array of genetic diseases to help prevent breeding carriers to other carriers. Specific testing results are available upon request. **There may be Foster/Guardian opportunities in these litters, as well as breeding pups to qualified breeders.** We will have openings booked with several highly reviewed trainers for each litter should you opt a 4 to 6-week board-and-train situation for housetraining and obedience prior to bringing your pup home. Please enquire for more information.*

“On The Ground”

1. “Golden Gate Pixy Stix” aka “Minnie” x “Golden Gate Sir Kermit” (small Mediums to Mediums in Various Colors

First-time mama Minnie is the daughter of Luke and Maisy (daughter of the amazing Miss DeeDee, one of my favorite dogs ever!) Just like her parents, Minnie is affectionate, people-focused, smart, cooperative, and playful. Minnie is one of those “fur-person” companion dogs who is a pleasure just to have around. Though she can be active, she also has an “Off Button” and enjoys lounging around, being petted, and snuggling-up. Minnie is a medium size dog of 35 lbs. and has a gorgeous fleece coat. She has been a traffic-stopper on our street with her beauty and charm. Minnie has PennHIP and OFA hips, elbow, eye evaluations and a breed genetic screen for genetic disease. She lives with her beloved human family in San Carlos.

Kermit has matured to such an exceptional dog. Yes, we *are* biased because Kermie lives with us as our personal family pet! At five years old, he is an intuitive Old Soul with intense eye contact and a desire to connect with the humans. While he is exceptionally smart, he focuses his intelligence on pleasing and following instructions rather than trying to satisfy his own agenda. He is remarkably brave—almost bombproof—for an intuitive/sensitive dog—and nothing really phases him that he encounters in the world. He is a fabulous therapy dog. Kermie loves to play ball and also enjoys water, actively swimming in the creek and also willingly coming into the shower with the humans when he wants a water massage a.k.a. a bath. Quite a few other breeders have used Kermit to sire litters in their own programs! Kermit is a mini at 25 pounds; though he is not very tall, he has a solid blocky structure. He has an easy-care non-shedding Chocolate Sable fleece coat and carries for Caramel color as well. PennHIP and OFA hip, elbow, eye evaluations and Pawprints screened for genetic disease.

“Minnie”



Mini Baby Minnie



“Kermit”



Lil Kermie



Past Puppy Photo Album: [Kermit's Puppy Photos](#)

Puppies are here! Nine pups born on October 10th (four boys and five girls). There are: one black male, one chocolate sable male, one chocolate female, two caramel males, and three caramel females. We are really enjoying these friendly, curious, and playful little souls. We expect the puppies to mature to large minis/mediums of between 25 to 35 pounds. We have a waitlist spot for one, maybe two puppies. Puppies to go home on December 4th or 5th.

Please Enjoy Photos and Videos of the Pups as They Grow: [Minnie and Kermit's Puppies](#)

2. “Golden Gate Blush” aka “Lottie” x “GG Sir Kermit” (Large Minis-Mediums in Chocolate):

For her second litter, we paired Miss Lottie with Kermit who will complement (and double-down on) her happy and friendly, human-focused temperament. Like Kermit, Lottie (from Willa and Tobias) is smart but not at all opportunistic or self-serving. She is sweet, easy-going, and obedient and loves people. People who meet Lottie often say “I want one just like Lottie.” A great All-Around Family Companion! We have bred her line for 4 generations now and hope to retain a girl to carry on this legacy and consequently will be looking for a guardian family. Lottie is fully tested (PennHIP/OFA hips, eyes, elbows and PawPrints genetic screen), She weighs about 32 lbs. and has the rare lavender wavy fleece coat.

“Lottie”



Honeymooners



[Puppy Photos from Lottie's First Litter](#)

[Puppy Photos of Lottie's Half Siblings \(Willa x Kermit\)](#)

Eight puppies were born on November 9th and will be going home January 5th-6th. Four Girls and Four Boys in the Chocolate shades. We are accepting 5 more Reservations, a Guardian spot for a girl, plus waitlist.



Follow the litter in their Photo Album: [Lottie and Kermit's Puppies](#)

3. “GG My Fair Lady” aka “Julie” x “By The Bay Gizmo”/“GG Beau Romeo” (Large Minis to Mediums in Caramel and Caramel-Cream):

Julie was our keeper out of her nine siblings, due to her calm and sweet temperament, even as a young puppy. A daughter of Cinnamon Girl (“Lucy”) and GG El Capitan (“Ringo”), Julie has the happy, affectionate, and easy-going nature of her parents but is also quiet, refined, and lady-like. She can appear a bit reserved but warms up quickly even to strangers and she loves to cuddle.

Julie’s Guardian family also have “Romeo”, (from Luke and Elsa’s *Shakespeareans* litter) and he is much beloved for his human-focused, kind, and playful nature. As much as we loved her first litter with Romeo, we intended this litter to be Gizmo’s, but there is a chance that Romeo may have had other ideas before Gizmo and Julie honeymooned. Consequently, we will be submitting DNA samples to the genetics lab to determine “Who’s the Daddy”. “Gizmo” has that happy-go-lucky “never-met-a-stranger” attitude and enjoys an active lifestyle with his human kids. I have received multiple (unsolicited) compliments from more than one trainer about the temperaments of Gizmo’s pups from both of his previous litters! He is loyal and affectionate, and not an overthinker—a great dog for kids and for first time dog-owners. Romeo is higher-spirited than Julie, and also active (he is Kermit’s cousin) and very sociable. These two attract fans wherever they go due to their friendly and affectionate demeanor. Great all-around family dogs. All parents tested with Pawprints and PennHIP/OFA. We expect a size range of 28-38 lbs., large minis to mediums, given both the size range of the parent dogs and their parents.

“Julie”



“Gizmo”



“Julie and Romeo”



Julie and Romeo’s Puppy Album: [Julie and Romeo’s First Litter](#)

Julie whelped 7 gorgeous pups on November 10th in various colors of red to deep Caramel/Apricot. There are 4 girls and 3 boys. Puppies will go home around January 5th-6th. Accepting 4 more reservations plus Guardian Home.

Julie’s New 2022 Puppies’ Album: [Julie’s Newborn Litter](#)

“Honeymooned”

4. “Cherry Valley Happy Lady” aka “Poppy” x “By The Bay Gizmo” (Mediums to Large Mediums in Apricot to Red):

Our lovely “Poppy” honeymooned with “Gizmo” in November, following their beautiful first litter together of 9 puppies born in 2021. It was such a gorgeous litter that we wanted to repeat it! These pups should mature to Mediums of about 40 lbs, given that both parents weight 40 lbs. themselves. Poppy hails from Cherry Valley Labradoodles and this is her first litter. A few years ago, Poppy’s mother visited us from Cherry Valley to honeymoon with one of our Golden Gate boys and I was so impressed by her unusually chill and laid-back temperament I asked her breeder to save a puppy for my program from her last litter with an unrelated male, and here she is! Poppy has grown up to be an affectionate, calm, sociable, and fun young dog. She enjoys snuggles as much as jumping in the lake for a swim. Fun family dog with therapy potential.

“Gizmo” has that happy-go-lucky “never-met-a-stranger” attitude and enjoys an active lifestyle with his human kids. I have had multiple (unsolicited) compliments from more than one trainer about the temperaments of Gizmo’s pups from both of his previous litters! We expect this litter to have temperaments similar to the parent dogs and to be suitable for most households. Both Poppy and Gizmo’s testing includes full breed Paw Prints Genetics panels (“Clear” of everything), Normal OFA elbows, and solid PennHIP results well above the median for the breed.

Expected Birthdate is January 5th, 2021, with a Go-home date of March 2nd, 2023. Accepting Reservations.

“Poppy”



Young Poppy



“Gizmo”



[Poppy’ and Gizmo’s 2021 Puppy Photo Album](#)

As a result of the back-up at vet offices across the region over the past 18 months, we are going through the health testing process for 4 of our younger generation girls who will (fingers crossed) be joining our program as future mamas in 2022! Stay tuned for more about Maisie, Minnie, Rose, and Nelly! We expect litters throughout most of 2023, including more minis. I am happy to discuss upcoming litters with you on the phone. (Thank you in advance for your patience in trying to reach me...I do want to connect with you in person, but I am often engaged in care of the pups and other dogs, as well as involved with my human family.) Often, an email will receive a faster response from me.

Best Regards,
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Please do not text except in a case of urgency

Our Placement Technique:

I intentionally try to under-reserve each of my litters to optimize the ability to match up my clients with the right puppy in terms of temperament, as well as to allow me some room to evaluate the litter for possible breeding-quality puppies to retain for my own program. While we cannot have visitors into our home (for the peace-of-mind of the mama dogs), we typically have had a Garden Playdate when the pups are about 4 to 6 weeks old so that families have the opportunity to interact with the entire litter. We undertake formal temperament testing at 7 weeks, prior to recommending specific puppies to each family. I always expect to have a puppy or two available "at the last minute" (usually a week or so before they can go home) which I make available to suitable families on my waitlist. These are not "last pick" puppies by any means, as families have very different tastes and needs, and sometimes, in my experience, the nicest pups can become suddenly available—most often a "first- or second- pick" puppy I was eyeing for myself!

I do not believe in kennel set-ups for our breed and my breeding dogs live as pets with their own "forever families". The puppies live in our homes and are acclimated to the sights and sound of a "normal" family. I encourage Guardian families to help socialize the litters in the mamas' own homes when possible, as not only does this make mama happy to spend less time away from her human family, but also puppies get more socialization with mama's favorite people.

As much as I enjoy matching up pups with the right new "family member", the primary objective of my breeding program is to preserve and continue to improve the true Australian Labradoodle breed, rather than to manufacture pet puppies. These are not commodities bred to meet consumer demand for superficial traits such as pretty colors and cute faces, which tends to weaken dog breed health over time through loss of genetic diversity. I am working hard to avoid the inbreeding that occurs when dog breeders keep breeding the same dogs over and over, generation after generation, and I strive to make each of my breeding decisions with continued breed improvement in mind, and particularly focusing on maintaining the famous temperament. I pay quite a lot in stud service fees, travel, and breeding expenses to introduce the traits and strengths from other breeders' lines to continue to strengthen my own program in terms of health, temperament, conformation and coat. As such, many of the male dogs I use are owned by other breeders, though I do also maintain my own stud dogs. Additionally, in my 15-year-experience with the Australian Labradoodle breed, I have seen time and time again that households are much happier with a dog whose hard-coded temperament trains align better with the lifestyle and tastes of the household, rather than one picked primarily on cosmetic traits. As such, I do not prefer to work with clients who are only focused on superficial traits.

Our Foster-Guardian Program:

Because we want our breeding dogs to enjoy undivided attention and "Star" status in their own loving families, we offer the Foster/Guardian Family program to approved local families. The benefits of the program are that families may enjoy a thoroughly health-tested, "pick-of-the-litter, breeding-quality Australian Labradoodle of the finest pedigree as their family pet, with a significantly reduced cost. We do ask for a refundable security deposit for the puppy/dog of about \$1,400-\$1,500, depending on the family home situation. As is the case with our pet-quality dogs, families will also enjoy significant support in all areas relating to their puppy, as well as dog socializing and exercise events ("doodle romps") within our community of Golden Gate Labradoodle (GGL) owners.

A "Foster Family" will take care of one of our untested female breeding puppies as their own until she passes all health testing over a period of about 5-12 months. If the puppy passes testing, the family may become a "Guardian Family" for approximately 2-4 litters over about 3-4 years, after which she will be spayed and resume her life as the family's pet. A male might have a longer career, but due to the nature of his "job", a family would not expect to be parted from him in most cases for more than a few hours to several days at a time. We place male puppies at a \$500 discount and refund \$400 each time we use him to sire a litter. The ultimate cost for this program depends on the age and expected breeding life of the dog, and we do take a deposit and expect the family to pay for "pet-related" expenses, while we cover all "breeding-related" expenses. (If a puppy does not pass testing, or an adult dog does not prove to be breeding quality, the Foster Family has first rights to purchase the puppy/dog at a discounted pet price, or may accept a different Foster or Guardian puppy from another litter.)

Female dogs will not have a litter until roughly the age of 18-24 months, at the earliest. Females may be returned to us to be bred (for 3-4 days at most) and then will go back to their families until about one week before the puppies are born. The dog will remain with us for about 6-7 weeks until her puppies are fully weaned. We are happy for select Guardian families to raise puppies in their own home for some period of time under our supervision and we provide financial

compensation for this important responsibility. We also welcome families to visit their mama and the puppies frequently while they are in our home, as the mama's human kids make the best early puppy-socializers! The timing of litters will likely be once a year for the first year, and possibly two, for the second or third year, depending on the health and well-being of the dog, but also on the schedules of the Guardian Family and on my own schedule. (Some families like to plan their vacations when their dog is with me, to avoid having to board.) Depending on various considerations, we would expect a male to be kept intact for 4-5 years after maturity. All these terms, as well as other issues are well-laid out in a comprehensive contract between the family and us, as we consider it very important to anticipate any potential issues whatsoever that might impair what we hope will be a warm and cooperative relationship!

We will likely be looking for Foster-Guardian Families for untested female and perhaps male puppies from most of the above-mentioned litters. If you have any questions regarding future pups from the Foster-Guardian program, or if you would like my information sheet/application, please contact me.

Are You REALLY Ready for A Puppy?

1. Can you care for a puppy for its whole life?

The expected lifespan of dogs is around 12 years, with some dogs living until 14 or even older. While puppies are irresistibly adorable, you will need to be prepared to provide for an adult animal too and, in the case of some dogs, a much larger animal with considerable exercise requirements and a sizable appetite.

2. Can you afford a puppy?

Responsible pet owners should vaccinate, desex dogs and feed them a high-quality, species-appropriate diet. This comes at a cost. Additionally, you will need to think about ongoing costs like grooming, toys, bedding, worming, annual health checks, vet bills, and pet insurance. The cost of caring for an average sized dog can be \$30-\$50+ a week, and this does not include any emergency vet care they may need. Pet Health Insurance is something that every pet owner should consider carefully.

3. Do you know how to care for a puppy?

As a dog owner it is your responsibility to know how to properly care for your pet. We suggest that you do some research before deciding to buy or adopt and are happy to provide links to websites and other documentation such as Dr. Ian Dunbar's free eBook [Before You Get Your Puppy](#).

4. Do you have time to care for a puppy?

Exercise, grooming, obedience, and play are important aspects of dog ownership. Puppies are a huge time investment – you will need to ensure that they settle into your house comfortably, are house trained, learn obedience, and are fed, walked, and taken to the vet when necessary. Adults are no less work. You will need to set aside time to exercise, groom, and play with your pet for its entire lifetime.

5. Is your home suitable for a puppy?

Carefully consider the kind of accommodation you will be able to provide for your pet. Your home and garden size are significant factors in determining your suitability as a dog owner. If you live in a rented property think carefully before committing yourself to any pet. While some landlords allow pets, many do not. The fastest way to ruin a puppy (possibly without any future recourse) is through overhanding by kids and overenthusiastic adults.

6. Will a pet fit into your lifestyle?

Working hours, a busy social life and taking regular trips away are all factors you need to consider before adopting a dog. Companion animals like dogs and cats thrive on human company and will always depend on you – you must be sure that your lifestyle will accommodate them. Before you adopt a pet consider their specific requirements:

- Are you prepared to walk your dog every day?
- Are you home often enough to keep your dog company? (Who will when you are away from home?)
- Do you have time to give your puppy the basic training it needs?