



GALA
Breed Standards
Global Australian Labradoodle Association
GALA

The Australian Labradoodle is purpose-bred, explicitly developed for companionship and assistance. The ALD is known for its emotional intelligence and sensitivity to human feelings. It is sought for its gentle nature and ability to form strong bonds with people. At GALA, excellence comes not only from conformation and genetic health but also from kindness, collaboration, and shared responsibility for the breed's future.

We are genuinely democratic, focused on cooperation between countries and cultures, and committed to fostering ethics, goals, and community. We recognize that breeding practices, traditions, and family lifestyles vary across cultures and countries. We do not expect everyone to do things the same way. We respect cultural differences with understanding and interest. What unites us is a commitment to ethical breeding, emotional stability and balance, structural integrity, and the health and welfare of the Australian Labradoodle and the families who welcome them into their lives.

This standard reflects GALA's intention to cultivate a breed defined not only by physical attributes but by purpose, resilience, and the ability to bring joy and support to people. Whether you are helping develop the future generations of the breed through thoughtful breeding, supporting its service potential, or simply aligning with deeply rooted principles of care and responsibility, this document outlines the qualities that shape the Australian Labradoodle under GALA's responsible care and management.

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Temperament

The Australian Labradoodle's temperament is one of its greatest strengths. The breed should be sociable, emotionally responsive, and naturally inclined toward forming a strong bond with humans. Their presence is comforting, calm, and naturally responsive to

people—they adjust to the mood and activity level around them, responding with empathy and cooperation.

An ideal ALD is confident without being pushy, joyful without being overly excitable, and calm without being disengaged. They transition easily between playful engagement and calm companionship, showing emotional stability and trainability. This combination of warmth, responsiveness, and composure allows them to excel as family companions, therapy dogs, and working partners in supportive roles. Easily overstimulated, anxious, or unpredictable temperaments are inconsistent with GALA's vision for the breed.

Movement & Carriage

Movement should reflect physical soundness, balance, and endurance. A mature Australian Labradoodle moves with a smooth, coordinated rhythm, showing natural reach in the front (a long step) and efficient drive from the rear (strong hind-leg movement). The gait should appear fluid and effortless, conveying comfort in motion rather than exaggeration or strain.

Each movement flows smoothly, showing strength without tension and energy without haste—an expression of balanced movement and stable behavior, reflecting both athletic ability and enduring soundness for a lifetime of ease and vitality.

Size

While Standards, Mediums, and Miniatures share the same overall appearance, they differ only in size:

- Miniature: 12 to <17 in (38 to <43 cm)
- Medium: 17 to <21 in (43 to <53 cm)
- Standard: 21 to 28 in (53 to <71 cm)

Weight can range from approximately 12 lb (5.4 kg) to 85 lb (38.5 kg). Height is measured at the withers when the dog is standing squarely on level ground.

Head

The head should be moderately broad, proportionate to the body, and blend naturally into a strong, muscular neck. Fully coated, like the body, it should exhibit balanced proportions between the skull and muzzle length.

- Skull: Slightly rounded, not domed. Occiput to stop = the length of the muzzle.
- Muzzle: Square in appearance, fleshy, and proportional.
- Nose: Broad, not pointy.
- Bite: Scissor bite preferred; puppies may outgrow Base Narrow Canines.

- Eyes: Large, expressive, slightly rounded; colors range from deep brown to honey or hazel. Eyes should radiate kindness, intelligence, intuitiveness, and alertness.
- Ears: Flat against the head with a slight lift at the base; set slightly above eye level; medium leather that does not hang below the lower lip line.

Neck, Topline & Body

The neck is strong, slightly arched, and flows into well-laid-back shoulders.

- Chest: Balanced in width and depth, not extending below the elbows.
- Forelegs: Straight when viewed from the front.
- Tail: Long, full, following the topline at rest; may be carried high when moving. Curly tails are allowed, but those carried over the back are not preferred.
- Feet: Round, compact, with well-arched toes and well-cushioned pads, and proportionate to body.
- Shoulder blades are the same length as upper arms, laid back with elbows set close to the body.

The topline should be level, with the body equal or slightly longer than the height at the shoulder. The loins are strong, with a moderate tuck-up, and the ribs are well-sprung but not barrel-shaped. Hindquarters are muscular, with a nearly flat croup and moderate stifle angulation. Hocks are strong, short, and perpendicular to the ground with parallel rear legs.

Coat

The ALD's single coat can range from straight to loose curls; overly thick or fluffy is not preferred. Curls should be relaxed, not tight. The coat continues to grow and requires regular grooming.

While the ALD is often allergy-friendly, reactions can vary by individual.

Shedding is minimal in multi-generation ALDs, though early generations (F1, F2, F1b) may shed more.

Coat Textures:

- Fleece: Silky, very soft texture similar to fine wool; straight to wavy or soft curls; low-shedding.
- Wool: Dense, lamb-wool feel; tight or loose spirals with curls that separate cleanly down to the skin.
- Hair: Moderate to heavy shedding; typically found in early generations.

Faults

Major faults (should not be bred):

- Albinism
- Merle
- Protruding or sunken eyes

Faults (breeding requires caution and planning):

- Narrow or pointy head
- Body proportions are not in balance
- Adult overbite/underbite
- Shedding coat in multi-generation ALD
- Undesirable temperament
- Heavy gait or improper carriage
- Narrow/wide chest, weak pasterns, cow hocks, or toeing in/out (feet that point inward or outward)