



Breed Test Information

Global Australian Labradoodle Association

GALA

Commercial breed DNA tests are not fully reliable for determining the exact breed makeup of dogs, particularly for mixed or purpose-bred dogs such as Labradoodles and Australian Labradoodles.

Why breed DNA tests have limitations

Breed DNA tests rely on computer algorithms that compare a dog's DNA to reference samples collected from known breeds. For these tests to be accurate, they require tens of thousands of well-documented reference samples collected over many years.

At this time, only a limited number of long-established, closed-gene-pool breeds can be identified with high confidence. For this reason, the American Kennel Club (AKC) does not accept breed DNA tests as proof of a dog's breed ancestry.

Many dog breeds were originally developed by combining other breeds. As a result, closely related breeds often share a significant number of genes. This genetic overlap can cause commercial tests to misidentify or oversimplify breed ancestry.

Australian Labradoodles and breed testing

Many Australian Labradoodle lines trace back to the original Australian breeding programs that began in the 1970s. While early experimental breeding could have included dogs of varied backgrounds, there is no reliable documentation confirming the use of breeds not documented.

Once a breeding population reaches advanced generations, any distant ancestral influence becomes genetically insignificant. These early influences do not meaningfully affect the dog's current type, health, or temperament.

Because Labradoodles and Australian Labradoodles are developed using repeated Poodle crossings to achieve an allergy-friendly coat, commercial DNA tests often report a high percentage of Poodle ancestry. This result is expected and does not indicate recent or improper breeding.

Australian Labradoodles are also developed from Labrador Retriever lines and, specifically for Australian Labradoodles, Cocker Spaniel lines. These contributions may not be accurately detected or represented by commercial breed DNA tests.

Understanding misidentification

The Institute of Canine Biology maintains a [breed relationship wheel](#) that illustrates the genetic closeness of many breeds. This visual helps explain why misidentification is common, especially among breeds that share historical development or genetic traits.

Key takeaway for breeders

Breed DNA tests can be interesting tools, but they are not definitive evidence of breed composition, lineage, or breeding integrity, particularly for purpose-bred dogs like the Australian Labradoodle. Pedigree documentation, health testing, and responsible breeding practices remain the most reliable indicators of quality, transparency, and breed stewardship.