

# BUYING A COCKAPOO PUPPY

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by **Simon James**



70 colour  
photos  
inside

finding a breeder - characteristics & temperament  
avoiding puppy scams - rescuing a cockapoo - socialisation  
teach your puppy his name - house training -  
puppy nutrition and much more!

## Foreword

It's wonderful to see how popular Cockapoos have become in recent years. They are friendly dogs with a wonderful temperament which makes them great companions, so it's little wonder.

With only about 30 registered breeders in the UK and demand for Cockapoos at an all time high, it's hard to tell which advertisements are from breeders who put their breeding standards before their personal profit.

Some amateur breeders do a great job, but how will you know if the breeder you contact has cut corners in the breeding process? It's best not to naively believe what you are told by a voice on the telephone but instead be ready with the questions you need answered before you buy your puppy.

That's why I've written this book in an effort to help prevent the cycle of bad breeding standards which leads to so much distress for the dog and the owner.

Many puppies are born that never should have been bred in the first place because the 'bitch' and 'stud dog' had genetic health problems or an unsuitable temperament.

There is also the dreaded puppy farm agents that flourish on the internet advertising 'stunning F1 Cockapoo puppies' (that have been shipped in from Eastern Europe).

Many breeders cut corners to save money and maximise profits with no concern for the dog's long term welfare and the necessary testing, vaccinations, and hygienic environment every puppy should benefit from.

In the book I have also highlighted the characteristics of the many good amateur breeders who love the Cockapoo breed and care well for their puppies, so you can readily spot them when making your search.

I've also included information about Cockapoo Rescues, early socialisation and basic training because this is so essential for any new Cockapoo owner to understand.

I trust you will use this information to help you find a healthy and happy Cockapoo!

All the best,

*Justin James*

# Acknowledgments

Thanks to Alan, Rob, Sue and Karen for researching and contributing their knowledge to this project.



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*Buying a puppy can be very fun and rewarding. But you need to remember it can also be time consuming, tiring and expensive*



## Introduction

Welcome to the 30 Minute Guide to Buying A Cockapoo Puppy.

Too many dogs and too many Cockapoos end up in rescue centres and it seems there are a recurring set of reasons for their neglect and rejection:

- Puppies and adolescent dogs are hard work
- Dog care can be expensive
- It takes time to train and exercise them
- They can dominate your life
- They are not compatible with many people's life styles and life circumstances
- Dog owners circumstances change: they may have been bought on a whim not because they were wanted

The only way to stop so many unwanted dogs being abandoned is to provide all the information prospective owners need about the responsibilities dog ownership entails. This concise but important e-book is an attempt to do that as well as celebrate the lovely Cockapoo breed that has grown in popularity in recent years.

Another pitfall in buying a Cockapoo puppy is only a fraction of Cockapoos are bought from registered Cockapoo breeders. This is partly because there are only approx 30 officially registered breeders in the UK, so demand far outweighs supply!

The fact is, many people buy from hobby breeders, one off breeders or just people trying to raise money to pay off their credit card without much knowledge or care about bringing a healthy puppy into the world.

By educating people about the complexities of responsible dog breeding hopefully puppy buyers will turn away from the worst kind of breeders by making informed choices and asking the right questions before buying. That way the cycle of demand for so called 'puppy mill dogs' will decline and force amateur breeders to raise their breeding standard.

I hope you enjoy this e-book. If you still have unanswered questions, please contact me through the Cockapoo For Life website [here](#) or speak with a registered breeder from the [list](#) or consult your local registered vet.



## Are you sure you want a Cockapoo?

When I decided to get a cockapoo I went through a logical process to see if getting a dog was right for me and my situation. I knew dogs needed to have lots of care and time commitment because my family had a puppy when I was young, but I had never had a dog of my own. Below is a list of what I considered to be the most important things to consider. Would I have enough time to devote to:

- Toilet training
- Daily walks
- Basic obedience training
- Hang out time with my puppy

or dealing with the time, patience and expense of...

accidents on the carpet and chewed up furniture.

and then did I foresee my circumstances as stable enough to commit to give care and attention to a pet for the next 15 years or more?

## Costs

An F1 (first cross breed) Cockapoo will cost somewhere between £500-£800. As well as the initial outlay, the following are essential purchases with rough costs:

- Bedding £25
- Food £180 (3 months)
- Micro chipping £24
- Worming £4
- Insurance £173
- Vaccination £54
- Collar £15
- Lead £25
- Basket £30
- Brush £24

This is just the initial outlay. The average annual cost of keeping a dog is £1380 (\$1,850) (source [RSPCA](#)).

My answer to these questions, including the financials, was yes, and I hope you get the time to really think these things through before committing to getting a puppy.

Also take the time to research the Cockapoo breed and whether it's right for you so the dog itself does not disappoint you.

## Cockapoo characteristics and temperament

As most people searching for a new Cockapoo puppy will know, the Cockapoo is a hybrid dog that is bred by mating either the American Cocker Spaniel or English Cocker Spaniel with a Poodle.

On the positive side the Cockapoo makes for a good companion dog that people can relate to, and they are easy to train. However, they are prone to being bored and can be described as being "needy" dogs which suffer from acute separation anxiety.

Another plus is Cockapoos are highly intuitive dogs that are adept at recognising their owners emotional state, being quick to comfort if their owner is upset.

Like all dogs Cockapoos thrive on exercise. The Spaniel was bred as a hunting dog, so they love retrieving. Cockapoos display agility when playing in the park and they adore swimming.

If bred responsibly, and socialised correctly as a puppy, they are a naturally friendly dog and mix well with children and other pets.

As a cross breed Cockapoos inherit characteristics from both parents. If your puppy is bred from F1 stock (see cockapoo pedigree later in this chapter) they can display more pronounced Poodle traits than Spaniel traits (or vice versa). Cockapoos vary greatly in colour particularly when the first born (F2) is bred back to the parent breed (F1) passing on a more complex genetic code.

Common Cockapoo colours are:

- White
- Cream
- Tan, beige, or buff
- Red, including auburn and apricot colours
- Brown, varying from light to dark
- Sable, a brown colour with tipping and shading in black
- Black
- Silver
- Brindle (subtle tiger striped)



- Roan (an even mixture of white and pigmented hairs )
- Merle (commonly brown shades mixed with white or cream)

Two tone Cockapoos are often described as having a "black tuxedo", for example, if they are predominantly black with a white torso. Cockapoos often have intricate markings and appear patchy. They can also have freckle type spots called "ticking".

American Cockapoos can have a merle coat, inherited from the American Cocker Spaniel and not yet seen in the UK. This makes the coat appear to have a mottled affect.

## Sizes

Cockapoos are classed in four different sizes:

- Standard or Maxi Cockapoos are at least 15 inches / 38.1 cm in stature and weigh more than 19 lbs. / 8.61 kg
- Miniature Cockapoos stand between 11-14 inches / 27.94-35.56 cm and fall in a range of 13-18 lbs. / 5.89-6.35 kg

- Toy Cockapoos tend to have a sturdy build and weigh up to 12 lbs. / 5.44 kg and can reach 10 inches / 25.4 cm
- Teacup Cockapoos stand under 10 inches / 25.4 cm and average less than 6 lbs. / 2.72 kg

The variation in size is due to the different size categories of the poodle.

Even the largest, standard cockapoo is still compact and ideal for apartment-style living.

## Cockapoo pedigree

If you have been doing some research you may have noticed letters and numbers like F1 and F2 and wondered what they signify? F1 is the term used to describe a puppy that is the result of a mating a Cocker Spaniel with a Poodle.

Obviously which type of Poodle or Cocker Spaniel will determine the colour, size and personality traits, although the Cockapoo is generally known for its happy fun-loving-personality.

Since 1940, The Cocker Spaniel breed has been recognised as coming from two different locations, America and England, although references to the Cocker Spaniel date back to the 14th Century. They were bred to be hunting dogs in England with the term *Cocker* derived from their use in hunting the Eurasian Woodcock.

The Cocker and Poodle were selected to be bred together to bring out the best traits of each breed. Breeding clubs like the Cockapoo Club GB and the American Cockapoo Club promote breeding standards to keep improving the breed. There-in lies the tension between lovers of the breed v amateur breeders and opportunists who are primarily breeding to make money from selling popular puppies.

The First Generation (F1) are typically more sought after and command a higher value as they will have passed their off-spring a strong genetic code. This is often referred to as 'hybrid vigour'.

After the F1 which is the equivalent of a pure breed, comes the F2 which is the first born Cockapoo being bred to another Cockapoo.

With this comes the many variations in size, colour and personality type. However, a good breeder aims to breed dogs with a desirable temperament as a pre-requisite to mating.

An F3 will be the result of two F2s being mated and so on. The other slight variation is if you see a letter combination like F2b; it means a Cockapoo has been bred back to the parent breed. This is done to strengthen a particular trait like low-shedding which the Poodle is famous for.

It's worthwhile discussing what class of cross breed you are getting with a breeder. If they are a responsible breeder they should be knowledgeable and keep written records of the pedigree of the sire (male) and dam (female).

## Male or female

When making a decision about Cockapoo ownership it's important you can balance your lifestyle with the puppy's needs.

A companion dog is perfect if you work from home so you can give it the care and attention it needs throughout the day.

If you are like me and allergic to long haired animals, the Cockapoo is ideal as it is virtually non-shedding and hypoallergenic (usually safe for people with allergies to be around).

And then there's the big question, did you want a male or female?

Male dogs can be sexually active and mark their territory. Bitches have to be secluded every six months or until they're neutered (it's always best to neuter your dog to prevent unwanted pregnancies plus it often has a calming affect).

Another positive is the fact Cockapoos are simply a cross breed. They are generally cheaper to buy and insure than

pure breeds and have less chance of suffering from inherited genetic disorders. Many of us would struggle to handle a sick dog early in its life.

A friend of mine bought a puppy from a hobby breeder and un-be-known to him at the time of purchase, he was harbouring a disease called canine parvovirus (a viral disease that affects dogs). This cost a lot of money to treat and eventually he watched his dog die causing much distress to him and his children. The bottom line is irresponsible breeders care more about money than your dogs health so do find a reputable one by started with [the registered breeders list](#). Cockapoo For Life is keeping this list updated and inviting breeders to upload a profile page to make their information more complete.

