



SEABREEZE POODLES

'SPOILED FROM BIRTH'

Our Puppy Training System

From 20 years of breeding and raising Poodles, we have found that they are a unique breed, needing more human contact and constant stimulation than most dogs. So, this is how we get them well-adjusted and socialized for their new homes:

Our Puppies are born in the East Wing of our home (Pictured on the home page of this website), in the whelping room. Their initial home has a heated floor, and additional heating pads under their blankets that are changed 3 to 4 times a day. From the very first hours of their life, we hold, rock and cuddle the pups several times each day, getting them comfortable with human contact. At 3 days of age, all the pups are checked by our Vet, and have their dew claws removed and tails docked.

When the pups get big enough to climb out of the whelping box, they graduate to the nursery. This used to be our 3-car garage, but has been specially converted with divided kennels, closed-circuit TV monitors, heat, air conditioning, and access to our house and back yard through their own 'doggy door'. Their new home has large, overstuffed dog pillows, and lots of toys to stimulate the pups and their moms. (Most of our girls seem to really enjoy playing with their pups.)

At about 3 weeks, we start paper training the pups. We give them access to an additional kennel that has newspaper on the entire floor. It doesn't take more than a couple of days before they are doing their business on the paper, instead of where they sleep, play and eat. We then start training the pups to come to a whistle at dinner-time (Their first command – That they learn very well, very fast). Also during this time, we have friends, neighbors and relatives bring their children to visit and play with the pups. The children under piles of puppies on the 'Pictures' page of this website shows some of this special socialization to get the pups ready for all kinds of people and situations.

At about 5 weeks, we narrow-down the newspapers, and install the small ramp that the standard pups initially need to navigate their doggy door into the back yard. It is during this time that the pups are introduced to all of our other dogs, ranging from the 5-pound terror (Junior) to the 84-pound teddy-bear (Barney). They also have the run-of-the-house, and pick up the nickname "Little Alligators" as they all try out their new, needle-sharp puppy teeth on everything in sight, including the humans. This way the pups are familiar with all sizes of people and dogs by the time they go to new homes.

Finally, at 7 weeks, and not before, after getting at least their first puppy shots, and periodic worming treatments, the pups are ready for their new homes. But, it doesn't end there. After about a week, Della personally calls as many new owners as possible to check on their progress, and to answer any new questions. And, of course, there is the two-year health guarantee. Not that anyone has ever needed it, but its there, just in case.