

## **Golden Gate Labradoodles: Winter-Spring 2023 Breeding Plan**

**UPDATED September 19th, 2024.** Please see our program plans below for puppies going home through December 2024. **(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 generally hold back 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 Miss Moneypenny (“Penny”) and Puppy Patch Burning Bridges (“Harry”)**

**Seven beautiful puppies in Caramel and Chocolate for Penny and Harry, born on 8/26/2024. Five Girls and 2 Boys (1 Apricot male, 2 Caramel Females, 2 Chocolate Females, 1 Chocolate Male, and 1 Black and Tan Tri Male). Updated pictures available via link to Photo Album: [Penny and Harry's Puppy Album](#)**

First-time parents “Penny” and “Harry” welcomed puppies on August 26<sup>th</sup>, ready to go home around **October 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>**. In view of the parents’ sizes, we expect puppies to mature to “small medium” size from about 28 to 33 lbs, although one of the boys is trending to be a solid medium like his grandpa “Romeo”. **(4 reservations available in this litter)**

When I spend time with **Penny**, I have the most endearing warm-and-fuzzy feeling that I am with a beloved family member—and that’s no surprise, as her balanced disposition is the result of our breeding forward the best individuals of my favorite lines over 15 years and multiple generations. Penny comes from lines of cherished family dogs with a special place in my heart (not the least, her great-uncle and our own 17-year-old beloved family pet “Cosmo”) and whose other offspring continue to bring joy to so many Golden Gate Labradoodles households. Because of our early focus on the original proven Rutland Manor and Tegan Park pedigrees, Penny’s lineage goes back to the aristocracy of the original Australian Labradoodles who made the breed famous the world over.

Penny is kind, easy-going, smart (but not *too* smart), very affectionate and cuddly—her human family asserts that “no dog can cuddle as well as Penny”—and playful. She loves her toys, especially her mini soccer balls, and also enjoys walking and going for hikes. Penny gets on very well with all the dogs she meets. Though she is not very tall, she has a sturdy build and weighs about 30 lbs. She has an easy-care curly-wavy fleece coat, and beautiful big luminous eyes that she uses to hypnotize her people into complying with her desires (generally, more snacks/cuddles please.)

**Harry** is a fun-loving, affectionate, and emotive pup who wears his heart on his sleeve and is up for most adventures. He is also sensitive and seems very conscious of the feelings of people around him. He loves playing with toys with other dogs, as well as with his humans, but he is just as likely to want to crawl up on a lap for a snuggle. He is the best sofa-companion at the end of the day when we are chilling out or watching TV! As we continue to focus on health through selective breeding and genetic diversity, we added young Harry to our program last year from an established Australian Labradoodle breeder in Canada, after recognizing so many quality breeders and ancestors in his pedigree (including his 3x great-grandmother, who is actually our “Caidy”!) We are looking forward to his contributions to our program.

Harry is a small medium of 28 lbs. but has a leaner and more athletic structure which will complement Penny’s blockier structure. He has a wavy-to curly, non-shedding Black-and-tan fleece coat, that we keep shorter to better enjoy his striking “phantom” markings.

We expect these pups to have their parents’ confident, playful, sociable, cuddly, and affectionate natures suitable for most household situations and to mature to small medium sizes comparable to the parent dogs, though some large minis of less than 25 lbs. are possible, due to some smaller dogs in the pedigrees and the substantial variation in individual pups in this litter.

## “Penny”



**Penny's Grandma "Oona" and Mom "Gypsy**



**Baby Penny**



**Check out Penny's puppy pics and her mom and dad in their Photo Album:**

[Gypsy and Romeo's Litter](#)

**"Harry"**



**Baby Harry**



## 2. Golden Gate “Nova” and Golden Gate Sir Hugo “Hugo”

Six Mediums and Large Mediums (35-40 lbs.) born on August 26<sup>th</sup> and expected to go home the third week in October (from the 21<sup>st</sup> onward) from “Nova” (generally recognized as “Miss Best Temperament” by vets, trainers, and her human fam alike) and from “Hugo” (generally recognized by our family, with whom he resides, as BEST DOG EVER--after Cosmo, who I was trying to recreate in Hugo’s lineage!) One Chocolate Male, 1 Caramel Female, 1 Caramel Male, 2 Black Females, and 1 Black Male.

**Nova** is truly a joyful girl with an ever-positive outlook on life. She has a “Walmart Greeter” personality, and enjoys interacting with all the people and animals she meets. As a puppy, she was always the one bouncing for joy whenever it was her turn to train. Always wagging and always happy. She shares her life with her devoted family in San Francisco who say she is up for anything as long as she can be with them--a family dog through-and-through and a wonderful playmate and companion for their two young girls. Nova can also be mellow and chill out in the house with you, but when the time is right, she is always up for an adventure! Nova’s mama Poppy has just this same mellow but playful temperament and Nova was the shoo-in pup of her two litters to carry on her mama’s line.

My family gets first choice of our pick for our pet puppies, and we chose **Hugo!** He’s just two years old and has already mellowed to a sweet, kind, and intuitive lover-boy. Hugo is the friendly dog who has “never met a stranger”--He really does love everyone and every dog and (tries) to greet everyone with a kiss. He loves to play with toys, but sometimes we think he is doing it partly to please us! He’s not a big thinker, but rather lives in the moment and takes everything in stride. Great with kids! His mama Clementine is a direct descendent of our original foundation girl, and consequently he’s related to our beloved 17-year-old Cosmo, though he reminds us most of his grandpa “Roscoe”, from whom it seems he inherited his happy-go-lucky view of life. Hugo weighs about 32 lbs. and sports a stunning chocolate fleece coat.

Given the stellar temperaments of both parent dogs, we expect the litter to mature to all-around happy and family-friendly companions suitable for most households. **(3 Reservations Available in this Litter)**

“Nova”



Baby Nova



**“Hugo”**



**Baby Hugo**



Check out this great video made by our trainer to see these pups reactions to meeting each other for the first time!: [Hugo and Nova Fall in Love](#)

### **3. Golden Gate Pixie Dust “Ginger” and Golden Gate Topaz Flame “Topaz”**

“Ginger” and “Topaz” welcomed the 3 girl puppies on September 10<sup>th</sup> who will go home around November 5<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>, depending on developmental readiness. (In our experience, smaller minis often mature a week later.) In view of the parents’ sizes, and past litters from Topaz, we expect puppies to mature to “mini” size from about 18-23 lbs. (no reservations available in this litter, but we expect to have one spot that will remain uncommitted until after evaluations. )

Please enjoy photos of Ginger’s pups as we update them: [Ginger's Puppy Album](#)

“Ginger” is a daughter of Celeste (“Estie”) and our most beloved “Kermit” and she shares some of the traits of both parents. She is sociable, affectionate and cuddly, and genuinely wants to please, with a general biddable and obedient temperament, though she may on occasion opportunistically try to take advantage of an indulgent pack leader!) Ginger’s human family describe her as a “sweet little lady”. She absolutely loves her ball and all things squeaky and is a snuggle-bunny! This is her first litter. Ginger weighs about 20 lbs. and comes from mini lines going back a long way in her pedigree.

“Topaz” is a balanced little fellow, loving to socialize with his human community in San Francisco and enjoying a lot of active ball-retrieving in the Presidio. Yet, he clearly displays the sensitive “Old Soul” temperament of our breed and will gaze intensely into your eyes as you stroke his silky coat. He is a son of the lovely little “Sunspot” (Lola), and “Elmo”--another scion of the original Australian Labradoodle lines, and from whom we see much of Topaz’s sensitive and intuitive nature originating. Topaz has recently sired some litters of minis with exceptional dispositions (and even more exceptional cuteness!) You can see Topaz’s parents’ photos as well as those of his littermates in

their Puppy Photo Album: [Lola and Elmo's April Fools](#) and his recent litters here: [Gia and Topaz's Tarot Deck](#) and [Matilda and Topaz's Pups](#). Here is Ginger's litter's album: [Estie's Fantastical Creatures \(Ginger was "Pixie"\)](#)

**“Ginger”**



**Baby Ginger**



**“Topaz”**



## **“Honeymooned”**

### **4. Golden Gate Turquoise Elfcap (“Kaya”) and Golden Gate Sir Hugo (“Hugo”)**

*We expect large mediums to small standard puppies from our big beautiful Kaya and our personal dog Hugo. **WE LOVE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PUPPIES!** Kaya’s lineage originates directly from some of the founding Australian Labradoodle therapy and service lines developed by Rutland Manor in Australia, who made the breed famous across the world. In fact, her sire is “Rutlands Baby Joey”, son of the legendary “Cool Dude”! With her chill and easy-going “Big Dog” temperament, Kaya is certainly a testament to the legacy. If the breeding is successful, we expect puppies to be born around October 28<sup>th</sup>, to go home December 23<sup>rd</sup>! If you are interested in tentatively reserving in this litter, please let me know...and fingers crossed for a positive pregnancy check!*

**“Kaya”**



**Baby Kaya**



Please feel welcome to email or call if you have questions about upcoming litters!

**Kristin**

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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 6-7 weeks old so that families have the opportunity to interact with the entire litter. We undertake formal temperament testing at 7-8 weeks, prior to recommending specific puppies to each family. I always expect to have a puppy or two available at the end of the process (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 traits 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 \$1,500, 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 discount and refund some amount 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!