

Bocker, The Labradoodle **REVEAL**

Why President Barack Obama Should Consider Adopting a Labradoodle

The Interview

What is like to own a Labradoodle?

Bocker is now 5. I cannot imagine life without him. He brings smiles wherever he goes. Sometimes it is hard to walk a few blocks without someone commenting on how gorgeous he is.

He loves to be outside, so of course, that helps me get out and walk and be outside more than I would normally. So he is my "therapy" dog first.

What are Labradoodles special characteristics?

Bocker and the other Labradoodles that we have met are all highly intelligent, outgoing, loving, family-oriented dogs. They love to run (they all seem to hop when they run) and play but can also be comfortable just lazing around the house. A friend of ours describes them as "love sponges". They are very inquisitive and aware of what is going on around them. Most Labradoodles love to swim (Bocker sure does) and enjoy any activity their owners may be involved in.

Why do you think President Barack Obama or any other prospect owner should get a Labradoodle?

You are getting the best of both worlds...part lab and part poodle. An adorable, intelligent, family-oriented dog...who could ask for more? They are highly intelligent, easy to train and so much fun to be around. A concern for us was that my husband, who is a singer also has asthma. So we looked into getting a Labradoodle due to their being hypoallergenic and low or no shed. This was a part of our decision and it worked out great. This is also an important issue for the Obama family due to their daughter, Malia's allergies.

What is a typical day like for Bocker?

Even with all he has going on, he does have days when he just enjoys being the family dog. Bocker and I are up early, we have our breakfast and then it's off for our long morning walk. When we come back, Bocker usually relaxes while I get some work done. The rest of the day can consist of refresher training or learning something in particular that he would have to do for a photo shoot or commercial, playing catch and running in the yard and just laying on his bed outside and watching the deer in the woods. He loves going in the car on errands with me and definitely enjoys the attention and the special treats from the teller at the bank.

Bocker works weekly as a Tail Wagging Tutor in a local elementary school, where children read to him. It is a program comprised of children who may have difficulty reading, who are very shy about reading out loud in class, and those who need more social interaction. The dogs make them feel comfortable and of course, the dogs love the attention. The results have been extremely positive with a marked improvement in their reading skills.

In the evening he usually lays at my feet a while and then navigates to his comfortable couch and snores away. When it's time for bed, he runs upstairs and gets into his bed which is in our bedroom and snores away some more.

Bocker does have a large vocabulary of words that mean something to him. He does know the difference between going to work, going to school, going to visit a hospital or nursing home, or going to the park to play with his friends. He definitely knows Saturday and Sunday when it is time to go to the paw park to play with his friends. He is great in the car, which is a necessity, with all the different places he is expected to be. Bocker is one busy doodle.

With all the buzz about the next first dog, Bocker knows what it means to be one of the most sought after dogs in America and this is why he and Marie, (Bocker's Mommy) is opening up in an interview with Pet E! and telling us why a Labradoodle would make a suitable First Dog for President Barack Obama & the First Family.



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What kind of traits does a Labradoodle have that would distinguish him from a Portuguese water dog?

Though both dogs are highly intelligent and love activity, the Labradoodle will be just as happy lying at his owner's feet or just relaxing in his own home. The PWG is an extremely active dog and would be best suited to a family that spends lots of time involved in outdoor activities and water sports. The PWD craves exercise and may develop behavioral problems if not kept active. This may become an issue for the White House dog. The PWD's hair does require more grooming than the Labradoodle since it is curlier, tighter hair.



The other issue for the Obama family is Malia's allergies. Some dog experts advise allergic pet owners to get a tightly-curled or hairless breed. People however, are allergic to dander, not hair. No breed's dander has been shown to cause lesser or greater reaction than any other. Thus recommendations to choose certain breeds over others are illogical. What is true is that each animal, regardless of breed, produces a certain amount of dander. These amounts can differ between individual animals. For this reason, you can be allergic to one pet and less allergic to another. This is regardless of coat type. Some say an F1B Labradoodle would be a good fit because it is a Labradoodle/Poodle mix.

Do you think a Labradoodle would fit into the lifestyle of the first family in the White House in which the dog would become the first dog?

Definitely. Labradoodles are fun loving, family dogs and adapt well to all situations, which is important for the "First Dog". The Labradoodle could fit in very nicely with the routine and/or non-routine of the First Family. He will make a great companion for the entire family and will provide a lifetime of love and smiles. I have heard comments that they are smart enough to be in the CIA! Bocker would be the Perfect White House Dog.....but they can't have him!

Are there any myths about Labradoodles you would like to dispel?

A yard is an absolute requirement for every Labradoodle. The majority of time Bocker or any dog spends in his yard is lying around watching what is going on in his surroundings and not running and getting exercise. The way they get exercise is the owner walking with them or taking them to a dog park.

Some people are stating that a Golden-doodle would be a better fit for the Obamas, what do you think about a Golden-doodle? How is it different from a Labradoodle?

When we were trying to decide between a Labradoodle and a Golden-doodle, we discovered it was mainly a choice of how the dog looked and not temperament or behavioral issues. Our own feeling after much research, was that we liked the "look" and different coat of the Labradoodle better than the Golden-doodle. Just personal opinion, but they just seemed cuter. The only constant difference between these two breeds is coat type, which is mainly preference. There is a greater variance in the F1 Labradoodle coat (which Bocker is...a lab/poodle mix). There are puppies that appear more "labby" and have terrier type hair with wisps; there are puppies with a plusher coat and there are puppies who can take after the poodle with more of a tight curly coat. Some people prefer different coat types to others.

As for the Golden-doodle coat, there is a greater similarity between the individual dogs. They may require a bit more of a grooming commitment than Labradoodles.

Labs are more commonly used as therapy dogs due to their trainability. Golden-doodles seem a bit more happy-go-lucky, where Labradoodles seem to assess a situation more thoroughly. A good breeder can answer specific questions a prospective owner may have.

If there was any advice you could give to the President and his family concerning Labradoodles, what advice would you give them?

As with any dog, training and socialization are key issues. The Obama Family seems to be close knit and a Labradoodle would fit in perfectly with them, but with any dog, training at an early age and socialization are key. It is my opinion that the girls should be involved in the new "First Dog's" training too.

There are a large number of Labradoodles that need to be rescued and there are several organizations, such as the Doodle Rescue and Resource Collective, that work very hard to find them good homes. Like any dog that becomes popular, there is a danger of people just wanting them because of their popularity at the moment and then they decide they don't want them any longer. This happened with Dalmatians after the movie *101 Dalmatians* came out. So President Obama said he wanted to get "a mutt" like him...what could be more perfect than a Labradoodle. And we are sure he could find a Labradoodle that needs to be rescued and would be the perfect "First Dog"