

Underbites in the Australian Labradoodle

The Australian Labradoodle does have one known genetic issue cropping up occasionally around the globe, many breeders have yet to be able to stop it because it does involve 8 genes, any two randomly matching can cause it and just about fifty percent of Australian Labradoodles seem to be carriers of one of the 8, so which random breeding partners express it in a few of their offspring is always a surprise. What is this issue, the underbite. The underbite is far from a serious concern compared to Hip Dysplasia, Addisons, Eye Issues, Cardiac issues and all those at a life altering level, however it does happen and it is visible. We are trying to breed away from it, however this may be a long road since the underbite is a genetic issue of 8 genes requiring just one to be passed by both the mother and the father. A slight underbite in a puppy is what makes an Australian Labradoodle a pet quality puppy. Waltzing Matilda's does inform all families if this is expressed in a puppy, it is not possible to actually see until teeth come in around 6 to 7 weeks of age. These are slight underbites, and are typically gone by the time the adult teeth come in. It is uncommon in our program but does occasionally occur. We request that you call our dental vet, Dr. Ira Luskin, DVM (Veterinary Dentist, Orthodontics, and Oral Surgery Specialist) at 410-828-1001 if you have questions on slight underbites, and/or if you are adopting a puppy with a slight underbite. Please have your vet discuss the issue with our vet before your puppy arrives, that way you are both well informed. We have never had a serious under bite in a puppy and consider this another issue entirely. We do not discount a puppy if it has a slight underbite, as this is a very minor issue. We do have our vet look at the jaw and teeth. At this point we are looking at the puppy teeth that have grown in from age 6 weeks to 4 months then they fall out and the adult teeth come in. If he determines it is a positive approach to remove some of the puppy teeth while under for spay/neuter to allow the jaw to grow correctly on its own, we will do so and we will cover the cost.



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Defined

An under bite (under shot, reverse scissors bite, prognathism, class 3) occurs when the lower teeth protrude in front of the upper jaw teeth. Some short muzzled breeds (Boxers, English Bull Dogs, Shih-Tzu's, and Lhasa Apsos) normally have an under bite, but when it occurs in medium muzzled breeds it is abnormal. When the upper and lower incisor teeth meet each other edge to edge, the occlusion is considered an even or level bite. Constant contact between upper and lower incisors can cause uneven wear, periodontal disease, and early tooth loss.