

# HEATHER KIESWETTER

Canine Care & Operations Manager | Ethical Breeder | Puppy Development & Early Life Care

Wingham, Ontario

Bluevale Meadows Australian Labradoodles

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Breeder and canine care professional with 35+ years of hands-on experience shaped by a rural Ontario upbringing, early involvement in my mother's CKC-registered Bichon Frise program, and a lifelong foundation in practical animal husbandry. My work centers on neonatal stabilization, prenatal and postpartum dam support, and structured early puppy development from birth through nine weeks. I use an integrative, evidence-aligned approach that blends practical husbandry, generational knowledge, developmental science, nutrition research, behavior and temperament study, and time-tested veterinary practices.

I hold an Ofqual Level 3 Canine Nutrition Diploma and continue ongoing study in behavior, temperament, nutrigenomics, and developmental shaping. I also draw from Puppy Culture and Empowered Badass Breeder methodologies to support my hands-on developmental and early-life work. I combine real-world experience with clear, supportive client education to raise stable, well-prepared puppies and guide families with confidence, transparency, and long-term wellness in mind. My program reflects a welfare-first philosophy, thoughtful breed stewardship, and a commitment to maintaining the integrity, purpose, and future of the Australian Labradoodle.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Neonatal stabilization & early life care
- Maternal support & whelping management
- Early puppy development (birth–9 weeks)
- Non-shedding coat grooming & maintenance (mentorship-trained)
- Canine nutrition (Ofqual Level 3) & microbiome-supportive feeding
- Structure evaluation & breed-standard alignment
- OFA & DNA testing literacy
- Stress-responsive, individualized care
- Puppy temperament evaluation & early socialization
- Client education & long-term family support
- Program transparency through structured documentation (photo/video)
- Home environment management & biosecurity

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

**Canine Nutrition Diploma (Ofqual Level 3)** — iPET Network, UK Comprehensive training in canine anatomy, life-stage nutrition, microbiome health, and evidence-aligned feeding practices.

**Neonatal Emergency Care Training** — Myra Savant Harris Applied training in neonatal stabilization, emergency protocols, and early-life risk management.

### **Puppy Culture Implementation**

Structured application of early socialization, developmental timing, and enrichment protocols. My early understanding of individualized learning was shaped by *When Pigs Fly*—written by the same developer behind Puppy Culture—which introduced the concept that dogs learn through different cognitive styles and led me into deeper study of temperament, motivation, and developmental shaping.

### **Empowered Badass Breeder (BAB) Courses**

Completion of multiple BAB courses ranging from single-day intensives to multi-week programs, covering ethical breeding practices, dam care, individualized puppy development, temperament evaluation, and program philosophy. This training includes foundational principles used in raising puppies with service-dog potential, emphasizing early neurological shaping, confidence building, and matching puppies to roles that suit their natural strengths.

#### **BAB Mentorship Course**

In-depth, guided training focused on ethical program design, dam support, developmental timing, and breeder decision-making.

#### **BAB Puppy Evaluator Course**

Training in temperament assessment, structure evaluation, and matching puppies to families based on developmental profiles.

#### **Breed-Specific Study**

Study of the Australian Labradoodle breed standard, structure, and health testing frameworks (OFA, DNA), supported by ALCA educational resources and ongoing independent research into breed history, foundational lines, and recognition efforts. My early learning was shaped by the ALCA board active during my foundational years in the breed, whose work toward recognition continues to inform my alignment with the breed's intended direction.

#### **Foundational Breed Insight**

Informal learning from the original developer of the Australian Labradoodle, gaining early-stage perspective on structure, coat development, neonatal selection, and the breed's intended purpose.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Ongoing Study in Canine Behavior & Training Theory**

Continual learning in canine behavior, learning theory, and psychology through a range of respected trainers, behaviorists, and educators. This ongoing study supports my work in temperament evaluation, individualized learning, and early developmental shaping within my breeding program.

### **Ongoing Study in Canine Nutrition, Nutrigenomics & Epigenetics**

Active engagement with emerging research in canine nutrition, including nutrigenomics and epigenetics—fields exploring how nutrition, environment, and stress influence gene expression and long-term health. This includes participation in Dr. Conor Brady's *The Den*, a science-focused learning community offering weekly presentations and discussions with professionals across canine health, nutrition, and behavior.

## **Professional EXPERIENCE**

### **Canine Care & Operations Manager**

*Bluevale Meadows Australian Labradoodles — 2016–Present*

#### **Prenatal & Dam Care**

- Monitor dams throughout gestation, adjusting nutrition, activity, and environmental support to promote optimal fetal development.
- Maintain a calm, low-stress home environment and prepare a dedicated, individualized whelping den tailored to the dam's comfort and natural instincts.
- Track physical and behavioral changes to support maternal well-being and early identification of health needs.

#### **Postpartum Dam & Neonatal Puppy Care**

- Provide continuous postpartum support for the dam, monitoring recovery, hydration, lactation demands, and emotional well-being.
- Maintain a warm, low-stress whelping environment and ensure safe nursing, bonding, and maternal behaviors.
- Coordinate veterinary care and monitor for postpartum complications.

#### **Neonatal Puppy Care**

- Manage whelping, neonatal stabilization, and early-life risk assessment.
- Implement ENS and ESI from days 3–16 to support neurological development, stress resilience, immune function, and early olfactory development.

- Introduce structured early handling to build tactile comfort, resilience, and cooperative care skills for interactions with people of all ages and for grooming and veterinary procedures.

#### **Early Development & Curriculum (Weeks 2.5–4)**

- Introduce age-appropriate sensory experiences, including brief loud noises, new daily items, tactile surfaces, and early potty-spot imprinting to establish foundational habits.

#### **Grooming Foundations & Coat Care**

- Provide mentorship-trained grooming foundations for dams and puppies, including line brushing, trimming, coat maintenance, and early desensitization to grooming tools and handling.
- Maintain non-shedding coats in healthy condition and educate families on proper tools, maintenance routines, and long-term coat care expectations.

#### **Den Transition & Crate Imprinting**

- Support puppies as they “leave the den,” offering two crate styles to encourage natural denning behavior and early crate comfort.

#### **Confidence Building & Environmental Exposure (Weeks 4–5)**

- Facilitate daily obstacle work, mazes, and tactile challenges to build confidence, problem-solving, and resilience.
- Continue structured sound exposure and ensure restorative nap periods to support learning consolidation.

#### **Advanced Development & Early Training Foundations (Weeks 6–8)**

- Introduce more complex obstacles, free play in varied environments, and early training foundations including recall imprinting, sit, and manding.
- Support puppies through age-appropriate challenges while fostering independence and emotional stability.

#### **Transition to Families (Week 9)**

- Prepare puppies for the next phase of socialization and family life.
- Provide families with access to the Dunbar Training Academy “Top Dog” program to support continued training from day one.

#### **Nutrition & Health Management**

- Implement evidence-aligned feeding strategies informed by ongoing study in nutrigenomics, epigenetics, and microbiome health.
- Monitor growth, condition, and wellness, adjusting nutrition and care plans as needed.
- Coordinate health testing, veterinary care, and preventative protocols.

### **Program Management & Operations**

- Oversee breeding program planning, record-keeping, and health documentation.
- Manage website updates, litter pages, and client communication.
- Provide photography and storytelling that support transparency and client education.

### **Client Education & Support**

- Guide families through puppy development, early training foundations, and temperament-aligned care.
- Provide ongoing support rooted in behavioral understanding and developmental science.

### **ETHICAL BREEDING PRACTICES**

- Prioritize welfare-first decision making and long-term breed stewardship.
- Maintain transparency and integrity in all aspects of the breeding process.

