

The puppies are 4 days old. Because they are all white, at this time they are being identified as Red tail (girl) Blue tail (boy) Green tail (girl) White tail (girl) Orange tail (boy). As they mature they will be given proper names!

On Saturday, everyone had their first trip. Everyone went to the vet for dewclaws. In Europe, dewclaws are left on the dogs, but here they are removed. Dewclaws can be used in movement for sharp turns and balance. Many performance people have dogs with dewclaws attached. It gives the dogs an extra nail to dig into the ground while making sharp turns or stopping short. The downside of dewclaws is that they are often only attached by skin and not bone. This causes them to flap around and potentially to be caught and ripped off. I prefer to remove them as a precaution.

Today I started neuro stimulation. I have a complete synopsis of what I do linked on my website, on the home page. Briefly, I stimulate the puppies' adrenal glands. Studies have shown that using this type of stimulation will increase the puppies' ability to handle stress. The stimulation starts on the 3rd day and lasts until the 16th day. I generally start on the 4th day since they dewclaws are done on the 3rd day. To me, that counts as stimulus.

Although the puppies are still more like blobs than puppies, I am starting to see glimpses of personalities. Red Tail is my smallest puppy. She seems to take after her momma. She does not struggle very hard when I hold her, nor is she very noisy.

Blue Tail is my biggest puppy and he is a boy. I joke about him being a carbon copy of his daddy Shelby. He is very active and has attitude. He and his sister Green Tail have opinions about everything. Usually it is regarding the fact that he is tangled in the sheets and has lost mom. Orange Tail is my second boy. He is very fine bone like his sister Red Tail. He has a similar temperament to his sister as well. He wasn't too happy about his stimulus today, but quickly calmed down.

Green Tail is my largest girl, and the second largest puppy. She definitely knows what she wants. Between her and Blue Tail, someone is always talking. In fact, at the vet's office, the puppies were taken into the back room to have their dewclaws removed. I could hear 2 puppies having temper tantrums. I'm sure it was Green and Blue Tail. I expect both of these puppies to be outgoing and confident and to be great family companions.

White Tail is the last girl. She, Orange Tail and Red Tail are similar in size. She is a bit more outgoing than her brother and sister. She seems to settle down quickly when put under the stimulus, but she can be vocal and wiggly when going through it. She is a good middle of the road puppy.

This is just the first observations of this litter. Things will dramatically change, just as the puppies change. I like writing this down so that I can look back and see how accurate the first assessment was. Every week I will give updates and pictures of the litter. Final selection will be between the 6-8th week dependent upon show and pet prospects.