

Pups are now 10 days old and discovering life. I am amazed at how much they change and mature in just one week. I have been contemplating names for them. I know some of you have names for your puppies, but as a whole I am still mulling ideas around. I actually thought of using french Christmas names such as Neig (pronounced Neej) It means snow. Another one was Etoile (pronounced Eh-twol) It means Star. I came up with 6 different names, thanks to Google translate, but I still am not sold on the idea. So for now I am still identifying everyone by their tail color.

**Red Tail-Female** She and her brother are still my smallest puppies. RT gained 3 ounces this week. It may not seem to be much, but she is now almost 3 times her original birth weight. RT continues to be my most active puppy. While trying to take pictures she wouldn't stay still enough to take a decent shot. She was sniffing the table and trying to move all over the place. She is also my most vocal puppy. I guess since she is s-small she feels the need to be the loudest.

**Orange Tail-Male** He is technically my lightest puppy by .05 ounces. OT weight 8.95 ounces. He has gained 4.45 ounces since birth. OT is starting to grow a beautiful coat. It is already beginning to have waves in it, which usually signifies a thick coat. He is not as active as his little sister. He is quite laid back. Boys tend to be more relaxed. I usually find him under all of his sisters who are all vying for a spot under the heating lamp.

**White Tail-Female** She gained almost 3.5 ounces this week. Overall she has gained 5.75 ounces since birth. WT is starting show some fawn on her back and a bit on her face. It will darken up over the next few weeks, and then fade away around her 1st birthday. It will actually start to darken back up with age. She may have it come back when she is around 5 or 6 years old. WT is my least active female. That is not to say she is a slug. She definitely lets you know with a squeak or squeal if you remove her from her happy place (next to mom or under the heat lamp)

**Green Tail-Female**-She is my largest girl weighing in at a huge 10.7 ounces. She gained over 4 ounces this last week and over 6.5 ounces since birth. GT has discovered different variations of her voice. Where RT has one loud whiny wail, GT trills and has a partial bark. It is as if she is trying to have a conversation. I think she is going to be one of those dogs that looks you in the eye and response back to you both vocally and non verbally.

**Blue Tail-Male**-He is my monster puppy weighing in at a whopping 13.25 ounces. BT gained a bit over 6 ounces this last week and 7.75 ounces since birth. BT is a great puppy. He is so relaxed. It's as if he is the 500lb gorilla in the box and can do what he wants, so he just doesn't flaunt it. When I pick him up, it is like picking up a stuffed animal. He just goes limp in my hand. If he starts to fidget, all I have to do is rub his belly and he immediately goes back to being limp. He is going to be a fun calm pup.

This week we did nail clipping. 5 puppies x 4 paws = 20 nail. Their nail are so tiny that I have to use small fingernail clippers. From now on everyone will have their nails done so that they are used to having their paws handled and nails clipped. When I clipped GT's nails she gave me that little trill almost growl bark. I think she was asking what in the world I was doing. She was very good, and let me do them quickly. My most difficult was RT, only because she was just so wiggly. I couldn't hold her still long enough to get the clippers to her nails. She is a busy girl.

Finally a quick update on Momma Olivia. She is doing very well being so small and feeding 5 ever demanding and growing puppies. She is a wonderful mom, but does take small breaks outside of the whelping area to come play outside or sit on the couch with us. We call it "having adult conversations." She has also picked 2 puppies that are her "favorites". I know it sounds crazy, but momma dogs can select puppies that they prefer. Olivia twice has taken 2 puppies out of the whelping box and either hidden them or brought out sat next to them outside of the box. There is no danger to the puppies or to her. I just am constantly counting puppies to make sure they are in the box and not sitting with mom in a corner away from the heating lamp. The hardest thing will be when it is time to say goodbye. She may be moody and depressed for a couple of days. Fortunately she and I have lots of dog shows and fun things to do to help alleviate the blues.