

Happy New Year from Legacy!

This last week was quite busy. With Christmas Eve and Christmas happening, it was imperative that puppy activities were not interrupted. This is not an easy task. At 4 1/2 weeks, this is the time I begin to teach outdoor potty time. Unfortunately it is also weather regulated. I don't mind taking everyone out when it is cold, below freezing even, but I will not do wet nor high winds. Oklahoma experienced both this week. My little pups are troopers. Though they were not liking the cold, they are understanding that when they are outside and given the command "go potty", they go potty. It is the first step towards housebreaking. Legacy pups are taught commands for everything. Teaching specific commands for specific actions, increases the chance of that action occurring. I don't just "let my dogs out to go potty". I tell them "go potty" as they walk outside. It reminds them that there is a specific reason why they are outside. It is really handy during inclement weather.

I have not yet started night time crate training. Last week, Oklahoma was experiencing rain and heavy winds. It is not safe to take puppies out with wind chills in the twenties and heavy dew. Puppies have a crate in their area. They do like sitting in it and playing in it. Every positive interaction that happens with the crate, reinforces that crate is a good place.

Puppies are beginning to be weaned. They have 2 meals a day of puppy food. This was not planned by me, but by mom, Olivia. She decided that it was time for pups to grow up and eat proper food. She started leaving extra in her dish for the puppies to eat. She is fed a combination of puppy food, yogurt, and a special mixture of duck hearts and eggs. Usually when I wean puppies, I start with a bland mixture of ground puppy food and goats milk, but since they were already eating out of mom's dish, I skipped the mush part and started with goat's milk and whole puppy kibble and a touch of the heart/egg mixture.

I know there are questions regarding the mixture I feed my adult dogs. I buy duck hearts from an Asian grocery store and boil them (without salt). I also hard boil eggs. I combine the cooked duck hearts, water from the duck hearts and the hard boiled eggs(not the water from the eggs), including the shells in the blender. It makes a watery paste. I pour the mixture into several small Tupperware and store in the freezer, leaving one for the fridge. I put about 1 teaspoon of mixture into each dog's dish. The duck hearts and eggs provide extra protein and omega 3's which produce a lovely coat. Many people have issues with dry skin and coats with cotons, but I find that my coats and skin are healthy and shiny with the extra nutrients. There is no requirement to do any of this, and the puppies will be eating straight dry food when they go home.

I have all of the AKC paperwork for the puppies. All of the registered names have been entered. If you would like to me to register your puppy, please let me know. The cost is \$35.00 and the check would need to be made out to American Kennel Club or (AKC). The advantage of doing now is that you receive your AKC registration sooner. The advantage to waiting until you pick up your puppy is that you may purchase a pedigree at an additional fee through AKC at that time and you may do everything online. As a breeder, I do want all my puppies registered even as pets. It gives the new owner the choice of participating in the many AKC sponsored events, and it gives the new owners access to lots of training advice.

Neige (Blue Tail) is a carbon copy of his daddy, Shelby. He is relaxed and a bit of a diva. At 1 pound 14oz, he believes himself to be an accessory. He loves to be held, and hates cold. I set him outside to potty and he gives me the most injured look. He goes potty, but he is dramatic about it. He shivers and whines. I keep reassuring him that if he goes quickly, I can bring him back inside. Slowly he is getting that idea. His daddy likes to pull the same stunt! Neige is also very food motivated. He should quickly learn tricks when something yummy is offered.

Star (Orange tail) is a Mama's boy. He weighs just over a pound. His Momma is very petite. Last week, Star was into everything and first one to find a new adventure. This week he is a bit more unsure of himself. All puppies, go through different periods as they mentally and physically mature. This is his shy period. As I say hi to everyone, he is hanging back a bit now and allowing his sisters to experience things first. Once he sees that no one is "dying" he is all in. He is enthralled with the outside. Once the wind stopped blowing, Star realized how fun outdoors can be. He likes to explore the area. While all the other puppies are huddled together, Star's adventurous spirit comes out and he is off somewhere. Because he is little, he does become chilled easily, so I'm keep close watch, but he really likes climbing over the obstacles in the area and using his brain.

Pali (White Tail) is my "holy terror" this week. She is into everything. She loves to be out of her area. My other girl May Day comes up to the puppy area and coaxes her out of her pen all of the time. It is not unusual to see her out in the middle of the living room. More than once, I've had to rescue her from under the couch. May is her favorite toy. May is 14lbs, Pali is a pound and an half, but she barks and bounces around each time May comes up to the pen.

Coco (Green Tail) is my quiet girl this week. She is not shy she is just a bit reserved. She enjoys her trips outside. Once the initial "I'm cold!!!" shock wears off, she is off and exploring leaves and rocks. She keeps a close eye on where I am and often runs over to sit next to me to get warm. She has figured out that if she goes potty quickly, she gets to go back into the crate. Sometimes she tries to sneak back into the crate before she potties. I try to keep on top of that.

Dolly (Red Tail) is trying to keep on with Pali on the mischief scale. As I write this email, I was interrupted by a lost puppy whine. Dolly had escaped out of the pen and walked into the closet. I had accidentally shut the closet door with her inside. Her personality and size has exploded. She was my itty bitty girl, but is now a pound and a half and the 2nd largest girl. Only Coco and Neige are larger. She just needed a bit of extra time to mature physically and mentally. If there are any puppies causing issues, it is either Pali or Dolly. The pen is too small for either of them, They want to see all of the world, and everyone in it.

Just remember I can only report on what happens each week. Puppies grow and mature at different rates. Just because this week your puppy is a bit shy or reserved, doesn't mean that next week they won't be out and about and into everything. They are only 4 and 1/2 weeks old with lots of time.