

Puppies are now 10 1/2 weeks old. I am seeing their adult personalities come through each and every day. Although they don't need to be with their mother or Auntie May, they enjoy their time together. I am now treating them more like adult dogs rather than puppies. All soft blankets and rugs are out of their area. The pups were reverting back going potty on the soft surfaces and not holding it. Once everything was removed, they went back on schedule. Potty accidents stopped by 80-90%. I also believe that once they are in their new homes on their new schedule, there won't be an issue. They just received their first set of shots. All shot and medical records will be sent with the puppy.

Friday, we went back to Kennedy Elementary School. We went to see the 3rd-5th grade classes and a Pre K and 2nd grade class that weren't able to see the puppies the previous week. This is the second time that Kennedy has allowed me to bring in the puppies. I am deeply humbled and appreciative of the hard work that the Kennedy teachers and counselors are doing with these children. As I stated last week, Kennedy is a school with many at risk children. These are children dealing with trauma, abuse, alcoholism, addiction, etc.. You can see the hurt in these kids eyes, especially the older children. They try to smile and act tough, but their pain is real. When the puppies are brought into the class room, it isn't unusual to see tears gently rolling down some of these children's faces. The puppies are a safe release valve for emotion that has no place to go. A girl kept stating over and over again that she didn't know why she was crying, she just had so much emotion coming to the surface. Another child would barely look up. I asked if he would like to hold a puppy, and he nodded. I gave him Dolly. Dolly quietly wagged her tail and licked his cheek. He buried his face into her, and just hugged her. I asked if he had a dog. I said that he had a puppy once, but his Uncle had taken it and sold it. It broke my heart. I told him for just these few moments, he could pretend that Dolly was his dog. He did not speak or move for 10 minutes as he held on tightly to Dolly. When it was time to go, he was given the option to stay in the room and collect himself or to go to the cafeteria for lunch. He looked up and smiled. He said he would go to the cafeteria, and that he felt so much better. I found out later that he is at risk for suicide. He is only 8.

I am very happy to partner with Kennedy in bringing a full time therapy dog to their school. One of the puppies, out of the next litter will be trained specifically for counseling and therapy. I took my little male Telos to the school along with the puppies. He will be the father of the next litter. I wanted the kids to meet him. Everyone loved touching him and giving him hugs. I look forward to a long relationship with Kennedy Elementary in helping at risk children in school.

This week, we practiced our crate training, leash training and house training. Crate training is going very well. It is best done after everyone has had a good long exercise. The puppies respect "Quiet puppy" and will curl up and take a nap in the crate. I have been mainly using the wire crates, but occasionally I will use a plastic crate. Star was the last puppy to be in the plastic crate. He was not amused and had to be squirted a couple of times before he settled and took a nap. I am quite firm about their nap time. Leash training is hilarious. As we speak, Dolly and Coco are wearing leashes. Coco trots about quite happily while someone holds her leash. Dolly is having melt downs. Dolly is very strong willed and does not like being told what to do. She likes to tell others what to do. As soon as Neige picked up her leash, Dolly screamed and wailed and thrashed like a hooked salmon. Neige thought it hysterical and kept pulling on her. He finally became bored and dropped the leash. Dolly immediately went to a corner and sulked. She would

not walk anywhere. She didn't want to look at any one. She was very upset. I have made her wear the leash all afternoon. She is slowly coming out of the prima donna phase and walking around. As soon as someone picks up the leash, she stops and lays down. We will continue working with her until she goes home. House training was doing extremely well until this week. We had some regression. I talked to a dear friend of mine about it, and she said, that it is a normal ebb and flow of training puppies. Basically, the puppies decided to start going potty on anything soft that smelled like a dog. (dog carpet, dog bed, old tee shirts etc...) Everything is now up, and I am happy to report that we are back on schedule. We have a few accidents, but with 5 puppies, it is bound to happen. I am very encouraged.