

This is the last full week all the puppies will be together. It is bittersweet. This litter has taught me so much. It stretched me in many ways, but it also brought great joy to me and to so many people. Raising puppies and raising children are very similar in so many ways. There are theories and attitudes on how to "properly raise" both, yet, in my opinion there is no perfect solution. This week showed me that flexibility is key to raising healthy puppies.

Last update, I discussed the Dilated Cardio Myopathy or DCM. It is basically canine congestive heart failure. Studies are starting to come out that show that grain free diets can be linked to an increase in DCM. There is no "specific" links, but those diets which include peas, pea proteins, chickpeas and lentils seem to have higher rates of DCM occurrence. This a study put out by the FDA. Because of this, I felt it was in my dogs' and puppies' best interest to switch from Taste of the Wild to another brand. I have used Taste of the Wild without incident for more than 10 years, but other Cotons who are related to my dogs have developed congestive heart failure, and they were on Taste of the Wild. Even though I thoroughly test my dogs for health issues, things can crop up. So as a breeder, I am constantly looking for ways to improve the health of my breed.

It was recommended to me to try Pro Plan Sport 30/20 from several top breeders of Coton whom I trust. I bought a very large bag for both the puppies and my adult dogs. Within a week my puppies started having issues sleeping through the night, they were going potty in their crates, and even going potty in their area. I was frequently washing puppy bums, and my poor little guys always smelled like urine. The only thing that changed was the food. Pro Plan has a lot of corn gluten in it. After talking with Karen, Choo's owner, we both came to the conclusion that the puppies must come off of the food immediately and be placed on a bland diet of boiled chicken and rice. So for the next several days, everyone is having the "upset tummy" diet to try to relax their poor stomachs. On Wednesday, I am trying a new dog food. I am not saying what it is at this time until I know if the dogs are able to tolerate it or not. If it works, I will definitely share it with you. It is not extremely expensive, and it is a good high quality kibble with no peas, corn, lentils or other ingredients that could cause issues.

I want to apologize for the inconvenience I caused everyone who went out and purchased the Pro Plan. The one saving grace is that it isn't open and can be returned. I want these puppies to be as healthy as possible including in their senior years, and that starts when they are babies. I should see a huge improvement within a few days. This last week has been very trying, especially in the house and crate training department, but just as children grow, so do puppies, and when something isn't working you try something different.

Yesterday, everyone went and received their shots. The vets love it when the puppies come to town. There is always lots of people who want to hold and kiss puppies. I bring lots of hand sanitizer with me. I love being able to share puppy love. Maggie had a bit of reaction to her shots, but I believe it was due to the fact she was already having a compromised immune system because of the food. She is playing, eating and drinking normally, but did throw up early this morning. I am keeping a watch on her, but I don't see anything that concerns me.

Our field trip took us to our friend's house. I was asked to have puppies talk to men with beards, so I found a friend of mine with a beard. At this time, none of the pups seem to have any aversion to "facial" hair. I also had a chance to see Duke in his "working dog" regalia. Duke is

going to a school as a Trauma therapy dog. He will be a full fledged staff member. I am very excited to him grow and work in this environment.

Duke is growing so big. He is definitely becoming more and more confident each day. The only negative experience in his mind is having to walk in the pool. He just doesn't enjoy water. That may change as grows older and is continually exposed to it. He seems to have a natural calming nature. When you pick him up he just relaxing and enjoys being held. He will make a wonderful addition to Kennedy Elementary. Duke goes to his new home on Friday.

Dancer has that really nice show personality. He lights up when he sees something he likes. It takes him a bit to warm up to new people and places, but he isn't afraid, just reserved. He really enjoys being Duke's right hand man. Whatever Duke does, Dancer follows. Although he enjoys a quick dip in the pool more than Duke.

Jack continues to make everyone smile. He is such a conversationalist. He even talks to his cousins and siblings. Every time Jack barks, it is with a purpose. He isn't just yapping for the sake of noise, he actually talks. If you look at him and say "hi", he answers right back, almost in the same type of tone. He could very easily be trained to speak. He is always the first up to the gate with his tail wagging saying good morning, and unfortunately a lot of times the last to say good night. He just loves life and thinks it should be lived 24/7.

Opie is a deep soul. He loves to sit and just stare at your face. It's as if he is trying to communicate so much with just his eyes. He loves to play and be silly, but with me, he is trying to connect. He will be an outstanding life partner. He is very sweet, and extremely empathetic. If I get too emotional, it is Opie that comes up and wants to know what is wrong. He does not seem to have a problem with anyone. He is very laid back and easy going.

Maggie is such a doll. She has had a hard 24 hours with an upset tummy, but she is fiesty. Everyone had chicken and rice mush for dinner. She finished hers and was trying to bump her brothers off of theirs. It wasn't a good situation. Brothers weren't too cooperative. She is going through a bit of a shy period. It may be because she doesn't feel well. When people come, she is not as outgoing as she used to be. I'm sure as her stomach comes back to normal she will be her out going happy self again.

Finally after 7 weeks, we received the results of the DNA test. Every puppy in the litter is a Telos puppy. It is minor miracle! The litter was registered and now I am waiting on the paperwork. Everyone should receive their AKC registrations with their puppy, except for Christy, but I will be seeing her in town and can get it to her when it comes in. It is imperative to register your puppy. The AKC registration is linked with the microchip. To register the microchip is a one time fee of \$15.00 and it will be linked with the dog's registration number. You will have access to one of the largest microchip registries using AKC. It is important that it be activated.