

Hi Everyone,

This is usually one of the more difficult updates to write. As of the 2nd week, the puppies are still more blobs than puppies. Eyes are just starting to open. They have little slits. Mobility is starting to happen, but not much has changed other than weight.

This update is different because it involves a completely different mom and puppy. Olivia, my other pregnant mom was due to give birth this weekend. She had other ideas. On Tuesday, her temperature dropped to 97 degrees. When there is a drastic drop in temperature, puppies are generally born within 24 hours. Olivia's labor never started. I stayed up with her all night and waited. The next day I waited. There was no labor. She even had a full breakfast, which a dog in labor would never have. She was not in distress, she was acting normally, and her due date was almost a week off. I didn't worry too much about it. On Friday, after talking to a good breeder friend of mine, I spoke with my vet about checking for a fetal heart rate. The vet I spoke with did not think it necessary since she was not at her due date, nor was she in any distress. Fortunately my reproductive vet called me about 30 minutes later to bring her into the vet. Within the hour Olivia was prepped for an emergency C-section. The fetal heart rate was at 144. A normal puppy heart rate is 200 beats per minute. A puppy in distress is at 150. Olivia delivered a beautiful extremely large baby boy.

What does this have to do with our little girl May and her litter? Because Olivia never officially went into labor, the hormone that triggers milk production and the mothering instinct never materialized. Not only did Olivia reject her puppy, but became incredibly aggressive to the point of drawing blood. It was devastating to see. Fortunately I was right there and was able to protect him, and take him from her. I am pleased to say that May Day joyfully accepted him into her little family! She was a bit puzzled at first. She was absolutely certain that she had only 4 puppies, and all girls; however she had no problem caring for the poor little orphan whose first hours of life were filled with confusion, hunger and pain.

Legacy Cotons proudly introduces the 5th puppy of May's litter of 4, Legacy's Music of the Night (Phantom) Phantom was also named in honor of May's expression of surprise and wonder of his instant appearance. He will now be in the update as well. I joked around and stated that I should have named this the Kardashian litter, especially with the unexpected appearance of this little boy!

The sisters are all twice his size. Phantom is 8 ounces. The smallest sister, Audrey is close to a pound. Everyone else is over a pound. The sisters are quite protective of him. If he yells, and he has a set of lungs, they crawl over there and cuddle with him. He is learning very quickly to grab a nipple before all the big sisters get them. I do give him extra feeding time. The sisters have taken to him like he was part of their family from the get go. He will easily catch up to them in weight. Even though they are 10 days older than he is, just like any younger sibling, he will do his best to be just like his big sisters.

Zsa Zsa is still my adventurer and mouthy one. Today I found her outside of the whelping box curled up in the corner. It wasn't the first time she had tried to climb out of the box. It is interesting to watch her. She no longer demands her mother to come to her, she goes and looks for her mother. She is going to be a handful once she can see and is mobile.

Ava is now just a tad bigger than Zsa Zsa, by about an ounce or two, yet she is so laid back. It is as if her sister took all of the outgoing adventure and obnoxious behavior and left Ava with the sweet happy parts. When I turn Ava upside down, she loves getting her tummy rubbed. I have a feeling she and Lana are going to be the cuddle bugs.

Lana is starting to have more of an assertive personality. She isn't Zsa Zsa, but when I had her on her back rubbing her tummy, there was some complaining going on with her. She was a bit more wiggle than previous times. Puppies do go through different stages, and what happens this week could be totally different than what happens next week. I just marvel at the different changes these pups go through while they are in my care.

Audrey is turning into a spunky girl. She was the littlest until Phantom came, but she definitely is trying to make her mark. She too started to squirm and complain bitterly when being held and having her tummy rubbed. It came as such a surprise to me, since she seemed like such a low key girl. She is usually off by herself. She is a bit more independent. The bigger girls like to heap together. She doesn't like to be under the "dog"pile. I'm curious to see if this trend of independence and a bit of cockiness continues. She could be my show prospect.

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