

How fast these puppies are maturing, is blowing my mind. Normally at this stage, Mom is doing most of the work. I am handling them daily, taking weights and finishing up the stimulation. These puppies are already past that stage. Everyone has their eyes open, and they are all very mobile. Generally I keep them in their whelping box until 3 1/2 to 4 weeks. I have already moved out their box and replaced it with a crate. I am actually working on house training! They are not even 3 weeks old! I have never started so early!

Generally I start training when the puppies are able to consistently hold their heads up. I know that they have the strength in the neck and leg muscles to move around. Puppies, on average start about 3 weeks moving around and holding their heads up. At 3 1/2 to 4 weeks they are moving fine on their own and pretty mobile. Choo's puppies are about 10 days ahead of schedule. They are already moving away from where they sleep to potty. I have a potty pad down, and I am trying to take them out about every 2 hours during the day. It's been interesting to see how they are reacting to a new environment. Today it is thundering. There is no rain, it is south of me, but it is noisy. It is really good for the puppies to be outside hearing the thunder while learning to potty. It isn't upsetting them. They just assume it is part of the outside. Every time we go outside, I use the command "go potty" and reassure them that everything will be okay. They are doing very well. They haven't caught on yet, but it is the consistency that will be the success in this exercise.

Duke continues to be the "middle child" of the group. He isn't a dominant pup, but he doesn't want to be at the bottom of the pecking order. He watches his brothers and sister for cues as to how to react to a situation. He really likes hanging out with Queen. Queen and Victor used to be the best buds, but Victor is becoming more independent. Duke is happy to have his sister there to "protect" him. He wants so badly to be the tough guy, like his other brothers, but he just isn't right now.

Jack is boss dog. I know I shouldn't have favorites, but he is mine at this time. Jack is the first dog to come greet me in the morning. He gives me a high pitch squeal and a baby growl and his wags his tail as hard as he can. He loves life. I keep putting him into the crate to take a nap, and he keeps jumping out of the crate to see the world. He loves people and wants to be with someone. When I am outside, he is right by my side, or close to it. He tells the others what to do, and because he is unafraid, they are unafraid. They follow his lead. Jack is also the largest puppy. At last weigh in, he was almost a pound and a half. He is a big boy!

Opi is Jack's right hand man. He is not quite as adventurous as Jack, but he sure is close. Usually when I hear squealing in the night or during the day, it is Opi. He is my drama king. If mom isn't around when he is hungry, he wails. If he is stepped on during feeding or sleeping, he growls with indignation. He reminds me of the person the Texan's say "Big hat, no Cattle". He is all bluff and bluster. He sure loves having Jack around to make sure everyone is safe.

Queen is still the sweet little girl in a group of rambunctious boys. She adores Duke, since Victor waved goodbye. Queen and Duke are often sleeping next to each other. It's as if they are better at handling the world together than they are as a separate being. I adore Queen. She is so gentle. When I rub her stomach, she is calm and relaxed. She is the antithesis of her outgoing obnoxious brothers.

Victor is my little explorer. He used to be Queen's side kick, but once his eyes opened and he saw the world, he had to go explore it. He couldn't get Queen to join him, so he left her with Duke and is exploring on his own. Victor is the one I am always having to keep an eye on when we are outside. Within seconds he is off smelling something or looking at something new. He is fearless. He is not noisy, he is just very curious about the world around him. He is going to be a fun companion.