

For those who have children and/or grandchildren this update will definite resonate. For the past week, I have been concentrating on a major dog show. There were 7 shows in 5 days. I showed 3 Cotons. Because of the amount of work needed to groom each Coton, traveling, and the actual time spent at the show site, I had very little time with my puppies. As I look back, I realize that I missed a whole week. The amount of changes that happen from week to week is astounding. I feel as if I missed a large part of their young lives. Fortunately I do not have any outstanding commitments other than my puppies from now until they go to their new homes. I will be right there witnessing each moment, and cataloging it for all of you.

The puppies have graduated from their whelping box to a crate. I took parts off of my kitties' play house and made 2 makeshift ramps for the puppies walk up and down into the crate. It is still a bit of step for them to walk over to enter their crate. Each puppy is learning how to carefully negotiate the ramp and not tumble off of the edge. Momma Choo sleeps in the crate which gives extra incentive for pups to follow her up the ramp and sleep on a soft padded crate. The ramps are a wonderful tool in teaching dexterity, and thought. Puppies have to think about where all of their legs are, not just the front ones to be able to climb up to the top.

Everyone is over a pound with Jack being the larges at almost a pound and a half. Mom's food is becoming increasingly more interesting to them. Jack and Opie especially like to "lick the bowl" once Mom has finished eating. They will be 4 weeks old on Tuesday, and I will start the "pre weaning" process and introduce individual crate time. I call it nap time. It will be in very small increments, to adjust everyone towards being okay in a crate by themselves.

We are starting the housebreaking process. Because I was gone just about every day this week, the consistency was not good. Starting tomorrow I will take everyone outside multiple times a day to begin a potty routine. They are already doing very well going to their pee pad to potty. I will be replacing the pee pad with sod so that the grass is the familiar place to potty.

Queen is living up to her name. She is very demure and loves to watch her rough and tumble brothers play. I was very impressed to see that Queen was the first puppy to walk up the ramp by herself. She loves laying on the bed (It is a pillow top mattress topper cut to fit the crate) and watch over her kingdom. She is quite petite and may only be about 10 or 11 pounds when full grown.

Duke and Victor are 2 peas in a pod. The only way I can tell them a part is that Duke has dark coloring inside of his ears. Both Duke and Victor have found their way outside of the kennel area. I hear the loud wail of a lost puppy, and there one of them sit. They like to follow their mother out into the living room. It is still too far for them to travel so they wail until I find them and bring them back home. Both are extremely adventurous and are really enjoying playing with the toys I am putting into the area. There is a large stuffed penguin and a rubber squeaky toy. It provides tons of entertainment for both.

Jack is by far my most social pup. He already knows his name. He wags his tail when he sees me and comes right up to the edge of the pen. He has puppy growls and squeals as he plays and he is the leader of everyone. He loves to eat out of Mom's dish.

Opie is Jack's number 1. He follows whatever Jack does. He loves having his belly rubbed. He has tried a number of times to make up the ramp, but it is still baffling to him. Often he is curled up right next to the ramp as if he is saying that he doesn't care, he likes it right here! He still is my most dramatic pup. If someone is growling, it is probably Opie or someone being bothered by Opie.