

Now that we are entering the 7th week, everyone is definitely starting develop their adult personalities. New experiences are still a very important to their development. Field trips to meet new people, activities to stimulate their brains, and schedules to help them develop proper patterns of behavior are all items that I have been incorporating in their lives this past week.

The puppies and I went to a friend's house this week. She has a daughter who suffers from extreme anxiety. It was so wonderful to see how calm she was as she was holding the puppies and talking to them. She does have 3 therapy rats which help her through her anxieties when she becomes overwhelmed. Both mother and daughter were amazed with how calm and relaxed all the puppies were during the whole experience.

This week was extremely hot. It limited the amount of outdoor activity the puppies could do. One fun thing that is purely summer related was learning to drink and play in the hose. It was a funny sight. The puppies loved to drink from the hose, they loved to dig in the muddy water, but were not as excited about being wet. I sprayed down the porch several times to wash it and to cool it down. During these times, I "inadvertently" sprayed puppies a small bit. The biggest cry baby? It was Duke. He was distressed that he was wet and dirty at the same time. It was hilarious to see this big obnoxious beast of a puppy crying loudly at being wet. I still have some training left with him!

Another new adventure was our first collars. Everyone is now sporting brand new collars. This is the precursor to learning to be on a leash. I am very impressed that the puppies had minimal discomfort when they were first introduced to their collars. Usually I am greeted with whining, scratching, head shaking and just general all around drama. There was a bit of scratching, and Maggie's collar is a tad big, so she keeps getting a leg into it, but overall everyone is adjusting nicely. This week the dreaded leashes will appear.

Jack continues to be the class clown. He is so adventurous and athletic. I sit on the ground with the puppies. Often my legs are spread out in front of me. His favorite game is jump over my legs, or jump onto my lap. The others are starting to watch and follow his lead. When I hosed the patio down, he was the first to climb on a brick to keep his feet from getting wet. He is a very smart puppy!

Duke is my most dominant pup. This is why it was so hilarious to see him be so upset about the water. He actually howled! I walked over and comforted him. He calmed down quickly, but I was very surprised. His favorite thing to do is to "excavate" a small corner where the house comes to a right angle. He loves to dig in that corner. It is not unusual to have him come in with dirty paws and face. I guess he is the throw back to his "pot" puppy days!

Victor (AKA Dancer) is developing into such a beautiful dog. He adores his big brother Duke, and often mimics him. His favorite thing to do is to tackle Jack. He and Jack are constantly wrestling. Jack loves to run and be chased, and it is usually Dancer that is chasing him. He runs, and then happily crashes out and takes naps. He still loves to be held and have his tummy rubbed, just like Jack.

Opie has settled way down. He used to be my drama king, now he is truly enjoying life. He isn't a big fan of being sprayed, but playing in muddy water is a treat. He is usually one of the first dogs over to the hose when it is turned on. He is always up for new experiences, especially if involves tackling Jack and Dancer. Those 3 adore and hate each other at the same time. While in the basket, rest assured Opie and Jack are arguing back and forth. Yet, in the house, they are curled up next to each other. Nothing like having a nemesis that you can sleep on to stay warm!

Maggie has come into her own. I have an elevated dog bed that stays outside for the adults if they choose to use it. It is about 6" off of the ground. Miss Maggie has learned to climb onto the bed and bark at her brothers. Her brothers are trying to get up there as well, but dear sister keeps pushing them off. Maggie also enjoys water. She gets her head wet and splashes happily. Her motto is if my brother's hate it or won't do it, it must be worth doing! Nothing like being the only girl!

Puppies are now eating solid food for 2 meals. Starting Tuesday Choo will only be allowed to nurse them once a day. Choo is fine with that, they bite! The food is still soaked, but they are eating it with gusto. At 8 weeks they will be eating completely on their own. I believe how fast time is going. Soon they will be receiving their microchips and then their vaccinations. They are growing up so fast. I can't believe it.