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## *What's Happening in the (Whelping) Box*



The past 2 weeks have gone by very quickly, as will the next 6 weeks....for us that is! For you all, my guess is time has been dragging as you anxiously await to receive pictures and finally bring home your new family member. I will do my best to keep sending pictures and videos with the changes that seem to happen overnight.

To this point and for about another week, Luca will tend to nearly all of the pups' needs-feeding and cleaning them. Our focus is keeping Luca well-nourished and comfortable for her very important task, and ensure pups are thriving.

We weigh and handle the puppies daily. Weighing to ensure that each is getting sufficient nutrition and growing.



Pups were born on May 23<sup>rd</sup> which makes them 8 weeks and old enough to go home on July 18<sup>th</sup>. I usually schedule go homes over the course of a couple days since we have so many and will set that up as time gets closer. We do ask that your schedule when you

Handling and performing ENS (Early Neurological Stimulation-which are very simple exercises) will help them cope with stress later on in life.

By the end of this week we will start to introduce food first in the form of a very soft mush and then slowly adding crushed kibble making it more solid. Gradually they will become less dependent on Luca and more on us.

Believe it or not, we will also be laying the foundation for housetraining by providing them with a "potty area" with pee pads next to their sleeping area. This will transition to litter boxes and then eventually outside. We have found this process makes our puppies very easy to house train when they go home. More on that in a future issue.



Everything we do is based on our desire to help each pup transition from life here with its littermates to life as a member of your family as seamlessly and with as little stress as possible for all. I hope you will find some of the information provided here and in future issues helpful.

## *Things to keep in mind...*

take pup home be such that you will be able to spend the maximum amount of time with pup before you leave him or her home alone for any significant time.

We like to invite our puppy families to visit, usually at the 5

-6 week old period. If you live close enough that the drive would be worth a one to one and a half hour visit, please reach out in the next couple weeks to schedule.

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## *Puppy Essentials*

**It is not too early to start prepping for pup's arrival. A few essentials:**

**Crate** — not too big, so you may want to borrow one to get started or get a wire crate that comes with a wire divider to make it smaller. I find the easiest is to initially use 2 crates. One for sleeping (I keep this one by my bed ) and one elsewhere in the house for day time use.

I like a 30" crate for the first couple of months, however a full grown GSP will need a 42" which is too big for a pup unless it comes with a divider.

**Water and food bowls** — I use stainless steel, dogs can be allergic to plastic and GSPs will just chew them up :)

**Leash and collar** — I like to start with the adjustable webbed type collar as pups do grow quickly, being adjustable you will at least get some use out of it. One that starts at 10 inches will do.

I also suggest getting 2 leads—a shorter 6ft or less for walking and a longer 10ft or more for training. I like the biothane type.

**Toys** — hard plastic/rubber type toys for strong chewers such as LumaBones, Benebones and Kongs, rope toys. Avoid toys with stuffing (GSPs LOVE to rip them open and pull the stuffing out, then they discover that same stuffing is in pillows, couches etc!), and if you will expect your dog to retrieve while hunting I also suggest avoiding toys with squeakers (dogs learn to squeeze them to squeak and that can transfer to birds, otherwise known as hardmouth).

**Ex-Pen**—If you expect to leave pup for more than 3 hours at a time (and please do not do this until pup has had several days to settle in), you may want to consider an ex-pen type set up—a smaller version of the weaning pen set up we use. I connect a crate to the ex-pen for a sleeping area and provide a litter box if pup is left for a significant amount of time.



## *Con't from page 1*



And finally, please remember our process as discussed on our initial phone conversation—we get to know you and your plans/expectations for your pup/dog; we evaluate the temperaments and personalities of the litter; and then we make recommendations to you as to which pup(s) we feel appears

to best fit your lifestyle and hopefully, your expectations. Please keep in mind that we do not see those personalities really emerge until the last 2-3 weeks that pups are with us. When possible, we do like to give a choice of 2-3, however, this depends on a couple of things including your place-

ment on the list. Keeping all of this in mind, I ask that you fight the urge to be attracted to any particular pup in the videos, pictures or during your first visit and know that some decisions are not made until the go home appointment.

## *Initial Veterinary Visit*

It may seem premature, but it is not too early to start thinking about your pup's veterinary care. If you do not have a trusted veterinarian, now is the time to find one. Check with friends and family for recommendations.

It is at your discretion to take your pup to be examined by your veterinarian right away upon taking him or her home. The litter will be examined by Dr. Hartelius and will have health certificates when we send them home. Their booster vaccines will be due at approximately 9/10 weeks of age. I recommend calling now or very soon to schedule so there is no delay should your vet be heavily booked.

The initial vaccine given to pup protects against the following:

**Distemper** - a virus that affects respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems, as well as the conjunctival membranes of the eye, Distemper is passed via body fluids. Often considered by some as a historic disease and extinct, however it is still a problem among un-vaccinated dogs and sometimes seen in wildlife.

**Hepatitis/Adenovirus2** – canine infectious hepatitis caused by Adenovirus spread dog to dog by saliva, feces or urine. Causes upper respiratory infection and then targets the functional parts of several organs including the liver, kidneys and eyes.

**Parainfluenza** – highly contagious respiratory virus often mistaken for canine cough, particularly difficult for older dogs and puppies.

**Parvovirus** - highly contagious intestinal virus, passed via feces. Causes anorexia, vomiting, horrific bloody diarrhea and is **often fatal for puppies**.

The DHPP vaccine is administered in a booster series usually every 3-4 weeks from the time pup is 6-7 weeks old until it is 14-16 weeks old. This is necessary because pups usually have some immunity passed from the mother dog and that makes the immunity from the vaccine null. Unfortunately, we do not know exactly when that mother's immunity wears off, so administering the vaccine in this manner has proven to give the best protection from these potentially deadly viruses.

There are other vaccines that you will discuss with your veterinarian as to their timing and requirements, please do not allow your pup to be given several vaccines all at once overtaxing the immune system.

**Rabies** – is required by most, if not all, states. It is a deadly viral disease spread by the saliva of infected animals and leads to brain inflammation and eventually death.

**Leptospirosis** – (sometimes given as part of the DHPP and sometimes given alone) is a bacterial infection that is passed in urine, particularly rodents, and often found in standing water such as puddles. Can lead to major organ failure, especially in puppies. Lepto is prevalent in certain areas, your veterinarian may or may not recommend it.

**Lyme Disease** – infection caused by a bacteria contracted from a bite by an infected tick. It often presents as lameness and can progress to organ failure. If you live in a high tick area, your veterinarian will most likely recommend this vaccine. We test our dogs for Lyme Disease and other tick borne diseases annually.

**Bordetella/Canine Cough** – upper respiratory infection passed dog to dog, this vaccine is always required by boarding kennels and often training facilities.

It is extremely important to continue socializing pup as soon as pup is settled at home, however you need to exercise great caution in where you take him/her until fully vaccinated. Controlled places where you are certain that healthy dogs are, or have been, are the only safe places until he or she has received the full series of DHPP vaccines. There are many things pup can pick up, but one of the most deadly is Parvo. Parvo can live in the soil from the feces of infected dogs, and can even be transported by our shoes and clothing. Puppies with Parvo become lethargic, vomit, have bloody diarrhea and need intense hospitalization, sadly even then many do not survive. (As you can probably tell, Parvo scares the heck out of me!)

Please discuss heartworm, intestinal and external parasite prevention with your veterinarian and go by their recommendations. They will also most likely bring up spaying or neutering, I urge you to avoid early spay/neuter (before pup is 18—24 months) or to at least research the subject on your own to form an opinion. Remember, if you are planning on showing your pup, you CANNOT spay or neuter.



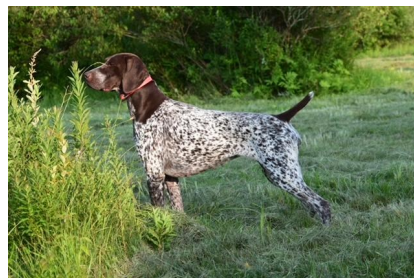
## Meet the Parents



You know them as Brody and Luca, but their official names are CH Windheim 'N DePaw's Premium Blend JH and NOHS MBIS GCH Windheim's Lucidity JH RN.

Brody was bred by our dear friends at DePaw GSPs and came to live with us as an 8 week old pup. He quickly finished his show championship winning large majors at specialty shows and then went to the field for his Junior Hunter title. My biggest bragging point about Brody is his non-typical personality. He is one of the easiest and calmest GSPs I have had the pleasure to live with, never being destructive and happy to hang on the couch all day. He is equally a pleasure in the field- close working with a great nose, natural retrieve and loves to swim.

Luca is our star...grand champion and NOHS best in show winner (x3) in the show ring, beautifully stylish in the field, loves to work in the rally obedience ring and most recently worked on a tv show set. She does it all and is gorgeous doing it. This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> litter, her first is not yet 2 years old and so far has produced a US champion, another close to finishing, a Jr champion in Ireland and a couple with hunt test legs.



## About us....



I was that type of girl growing up who was obsessed with horses and dogs, I just never out grew it. My parents had St Bernards when I was really small and then I was given a mini Poodle when I was around 7. I eventually taught myself how to groom and train her. As soon as I was old enough to work, I got a job at our local veterinary hospital.

Jim and I got married in August, 1985 and for the first time in my life I was without a dog. We lasted until December and just couldn't wait any longer. We knew we wanted a sporting breed since we both enjoy being outside and hunting. We found an ad for springer spaniels in the newspaper at about the same time I ran into a childhood friend who told me her mom bred GSPs and had a pup available.

Jim told me to choose which one I wanted to see first as that would be the one we would be coming home with. I chose the GSP, and the rest is history!

That first GSP was from nice show lines and the breeder wanted her shown. I easily got hooked on dog shows, fulfilling some childhood dreams. In 1986 we purchased her younger sister who was the first dog I handled to a championship. Both girls hunted ok, but we were always drawn to a couple of well known Dual Champions (Field and Show) who had much more intensity in the field. In 1991, we purchased a female we called Cali from those lines. She taught us so much about the field aspect of this breed. Stradivarius Calypso V Xfire SH became the foundation of our breeding program and all of our pups trace back to her.

We have 2 daughters who were more into horses than dogs growing up, but our GSPs continue to be a big part of their lives. Our Mali lives with our oldest daughter Kate, her husband Josh and our grandson Cody. Younger daughter Justine is our pet sitter when we travel, she enjoys hunting, spending time with the dogs and snuggling the baby pups.

We continue to enjoy conformation shows, but really love being afield with our dogs, whether it is hunting, training, testing or just hiking.

We especially find it very gratifying to share our passion for GSPs with others.

