

D & M FARM NEWS

Who's on Deck?



I knew there was more to this place than this box!

We have several litters expected within the next few months. Ebony and Kaiser are due at the end of February—first of March. Two of our new girls, Gracie and Rosy, will be due in March if all goes according to plan. Midnight and

Cesar will soon follow.

We estimate when our girls are due to have puppies by different methods. None of which are foolproof. First, if we actually witness the breeding. Second, we go by the last litter birth date. And, for those who have never had puppies, we go by when we expect their heat cycle.

Sometimes it seems a little like looking into a crystal ball and mine is broken sometimes. Mother Nature is rather fickle and if she can throw us a curve she will. Muffin is a good example. She decides when she is going to have puppies. And she always keeps us guessing. Other females are like clockwork.

We expect to be very

busy this spring with lots of puppies in our nursery. We love having puppies at different stages of growth. They are so much fun to watch as they mature, going through many of the stages of a human baby, but at an accelerated rate. They start out crawling, then their eyes open and they begin getting their feet under them. They become toddlers who bob and weave until they get the hang of it. They then begin to play with one another and become steady on their feet. This is when they begin to run and the play becomes more rough and tumble. And, I swear, the mother's look absolutely proud of their brood!

Special points of interest:

- Upcoming litters
- Cold Weather
- Vaccinations
- Veterinary Visit
- Kennel Training

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Cold Weather Precautions

Warm weather is just around the corner but most of us still have some weeks of cold weather to contend with.

Dogs that are outside most of the time must have fresh water available at all times. Hydration is very important for their bodies to withstand the cold. Adequate food is also important.

Dog houses should be just large enough for the dog. Their body heat is what warms the dog house. If the house is too large the heat escapes and they will not stay as warm. Bedding is important in the dog house. Straw or wood shavings are good. You may need to add bedding periodically

throughout the winter months. It is also good to raise the dog house off the ground a couple of inches. This "dead space" adds to the insulation.

As long as your Chow can stay dry and has adequate food and water they will fare the winter just fine.



Can you still see me?

Why Vaccinate?

When puppies are born they receive their antibodies from their mother's milk. When they are weaned there is a period of time before their own immune system becomes strong enough to withstand exposure to disease. Vaccination bridge this time-frame.

All of our puppies receive their first vaccinations when they are six weeks old. This is inline with the manufacturers recommendation

and the guidelines set down by our veterinary. We give a multi-vaccination against distemper, hepatitis, Para influenza, parvo virus, tetanus, and corona virus.

The vaccinations are given every two to three weeks until the puppy reaches four months of age. This is when their immune system is expected to be strong enough on it's own.

At six months puppies

should receive their first rabies vaccination.

Vaccinations are precautionary and valuable in preventing disease.

For more information please contact your veterinary.



The Trip to the Veterinary

Trips to the veterinary should be a pleasant experience for your puppy or adult dog. The more calm you can be the calmer it will be.

Some things you should be conscious of is there are often sick animals there. Prevent your puppy from being on the floor. They can pick up bacteria and/or parasites from where another dog has been. Insure that the examination table

has been cleaned with a disinfectant before putting your puppy on the table.

Dog walk areas are one of the worse places for your puppy to pick up parasites or disease. The Parvo virus becomes prevalent at different times during the year and it can be deadly.

The best way to protect your puppy or dog is . . .

- Don't allow them on the

floor. Either hold them on your lap or keep them in a kennel carrier until time for the exam.

- Do not encourage others to pet your dog. Their animal may be sick.
- Avoid the dog walk areas.

“You must protect your puppy from exposure to other sick animals.”

A Pleasant Surprise

While we were preoccupied with Gypsy's tragedy (last issue) Daisy presented us with her first litter. She and Leo had four puppies on 16 January. She had two red males, one red female, and one cinnamon female. All of them are little porkers!

Daisy and Leo obviously kept their clandestine mating a secret. We had moved Daisy to a neutral zone, not intending for her to have puppies yet. Mother Nature strikes again.

Daisy has taken to motherhood very well. I'm always

a little uneasy with new mothers because you never know how they will do. Fortunately for us, we have never had a Chow that wasn't a good mother.

Daisy and her new brood are doing great and the little ones are growing like weeds!



Daisy's three week old puppies.

To Kennel Train or Not

Many of you have asked about kennel training. Some feel it is necessary while others feel it is cruel.

We feel kennel training is a good thing. It is a safe means of restraint when you don't want your puppy wandering around. It can aid in housebreaking your puppy. And, it provides a safe place for your puppy, and eventually your dog, to go when things get too hectic in the house.

Some dogs get overwhelmed by lots of activity in the household when there are visitors or maintenance people in the house. The kennel can become a safe haven for your dog. Children should be taught that the kennel is off limits. If the dog goes into the kennel it should be their quiet time.

Kennel cages should never be used as punishment.

Kennels are also good

when you have to take your dog to the veterinary. It can save your car if the dog is sick. It will be a familiar environment to your dog during a stressful time. It also provides a safe quarantine for your dog to prevent exposure to other sick animals. See, "A Trip To The Veterinary."

If handled appropriately, kennel training can be a very good thing for you and your pet.

Kennel training can be very helpful when housebreaking your new puppy.

Yoda Bear



Yoda Bear is a year old now. His mom says that he has the sweetest disposition.

He obviously has been watching the National Geographic channel and likes to show people how the Prairie Dogs stand up to see better.

Yoda is one of Ceasar and Sheba's puppies.



Yoda Bear

"The Prairie Dogs look just like this, Mom"

Article Suggestions

If there are any topics you would like to see covered in our newsletter please forward suggestions to dnmfarm@aol.com.

We intend for this newsletter to be informative for our readers and the best way for us to do that is input

from you.

Updates and pictures of your puppy/dog are always welcome!

D & M Farm
617 W. Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.
Fairborn, OH 45324
937-767-7075 937-369-8425
www.dmfarm.com