

D & M Farm Kennel

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Shipping
- Adding a puppy to the family
- Feeding

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Two of Which? 2
- Introducing Baby. 2
- How Much is Too Much? 2
- Kennel Tragedy 3
- Tayla Mae 3

Puppy Shipments

Many of you have expressed concern about shipping a puppy. We have shipped many puppies to various locations in the U.S. and Canada without incident. Here is some information that might help.

Airlines have very stringent guidelines when shipping animals. Puppies must be a minimum of eight weeks of age and be shipped in a container large enough for them to stand. They must have a health certificate from a licensed veterinary within 10 days of shipment. There are maximum and minimum air temperatures that are set depending on the breed being shipped. Shipping Chows in the summer is sometimes a problem because

the air temperature cannot exceed 85 at anytime during the shipment.

We pad the bottom of the ship-



Tom getting ready to ship this little girl to Philadelphia from Dayton.

ping container with newspaper and a puppy pad. A water container is affixed to the cage door

and the airline personnel provide water for the puppy. Shipments to Alaska require and overnight stay normally in Seattle at which time the puppy is taken out of the container for the night and fed and watered.

No one can resist a Chow puppy so the airline personnel typically give the puppy lots of attention. All the reports we have had from people who received shipped puppies tell us they have arrived just fine with their tail wagging.

Spaying and Neutering

If breeding is not your intention then spaying your female or neutering your male will save you a lot of headaches in the long run.

There is research that suggests that females should be spayed prior to their first heat at 7 to 8 months of age. Research shows an increase of cancer in females allowed to go into heat but never allowed to have puppies. This is because they begin their develop-

ment but it isn't complete until they have had puppies. The partially developed cells can become mutant and develop into cancer. This increased risk can be avoided by spaying by the time the puppy is six months old.

Neutering can preclude issues with male dogs such as marking their territory, accidentally impregnating your neighbors dog, etc. We have never found neu-

tering to alter the size of the dog.

There are less expensive ways of accomplishing this. Check your local newspaper classifieds or your local animal control or humane society for Spay/Neuter programs in your area. These programs sometimes also offer vaccinations at a lower costs.

Two of Which?



Can two puppies grow up as companions? Should we get two of the same sex or one of each? We get these questions often. Puppies that grow up together will be fine no matter what their sex providing

Two little girls.

they are spayed or neutered by the time they are six months. Hormones cause the problem of the growing dog attempting to show dominance. Males will fight over a female and sometimes over their territory unless they are neutered. Females will fight when one of them comes into heat.

Disagreements between dogs in the same household sometimes occur but usually are benign and shortlived. So, if you want to have

two bundles of joy to keep each other company and be a playmate, go ahead. The more the merrier!

Introducing Baby

Several of you have asked about introducing a puppy to an adult dog already in the home.

Adult dogs recognize that puppies are babies until they begin to develop hormones at the age of six months. By then the 'pack' is established. We do recommend you spay/neuter to prevent any territorial issues as they mature.

When introducing your puppy put it on the floor and bring the adult in

the room and let it 'find' the puppy. You want to supervise the interaction but we have never had a problem doing it this way. It prevents the resident dog from feeling jealousy from your holding and protecting the puppy.

Puppies move very quickly and adult dogs, just like people, forget how quick the young can be. They are sometimes concerned by all the movement. The adult dog may

growl and even snap at the puppy. Although the puppy may howl like he has just been hurt, rarely is there contact made. This is all part of innate pack behavior. The adult showing dominance and the puppy being submissive. So, don't worry! They will sort it out. They will eventually work out a peaceful co-existence.

"Adult dogs recognize that puppies are babies . . . They will sort it out."

How Much is Too Much?

Unless there is a medical condition, Chows are not prone to overeating or becoming overweight.

We recommend you free feed your Chows. This means, leave food and water out for them at all times. Allow them to decide when they want to eat. Dogs who are allowed to become hungry often times become protective of their bowl and

can become aggressive. This is never good and can be prevented by free feeding.

We feed puppy chow until two years of age. Then we switch to adult chow. Dry dog food helps to keep your dogs teeth in good shape by scraping off the plaque. So, keep the canned food to a minimum.

Treats are fine. Again, keep them

to a minimum. Puppies will gobble the treats and ignore their puppy chow which is never a good thing.



Kennel Tragedy

Gypsy gave birth to seven puppies on 6 January 2007. Two days prior to whelping this litter, Gypsy climbed the kennel fence into the front yard where our German Shepherds are. She was mauled by our female German Shepherd. We took Gypsy to the vet and she was put on an antibiotic and medication for pain. Although she appeared to be a little stiff she was doing fine.

All seemed to be going well during the delivery of the puppies. The last puppy born died immediately and the next day another puppy died. This isn't unusual with a litter this size so although it bothers me to lose any puppies I wasn't sur-

prised. The following day she lost three more puppies. Upon close inspection of the puppies I discovered they all had purple discoloring on their abdomens. I took Gypsy and the remaining two puppies to the vet clinic where it was determined that the antibiotic likely caused internal bleeding in the puppies. The last two puppies died later that day.

Not all dogs process medication the same. The antibiotic should have been safe for mother and puppies but that was not so in this case. The medication was passed to the puppies through the mother's milk.

We are saddened by the loss. It's always hard when we lose puppies for any reason and it always causes a lot of second guessing on my part. If there is a next time, I will know what to watch for.

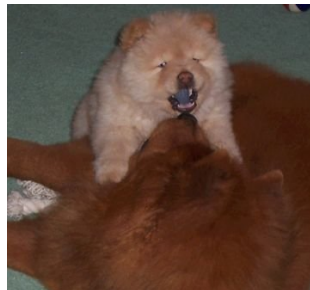
"A real case of
Introducing
Baby. Taz and
Tayla Mae."

TaylaMae



TaylaMae and her big brother Taz, live in New Jersey. They like hanging out on warm days and watching the

people play. TaylaMae is taking 'vicious bear' training from brother, Taz. Growling and showing your teeth are great fun. But, Taz is quick to remind her that it's only allowed



Like this?

when playing with him. Humans aren't good at this game.

D & M Farm

617 W. Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.

Fairborn, OH 45324

937-767-7075 937-369-8425

dmfarm.com