

D & M Farm Kennel News

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Going Back to School

Maleah has enrolled in a Veterinary Technician program. This program will provide her the medical knowledge she feels will be invaluable in maintaining our kennel.

After the January tragedy with Gypsy's litter, it became apparent that more medical knowledge would be helpful.

There are frequent health issues that arise with as many animals as we have. We have always worked closely with our veterinary to ensure we provide the best health care possible. Even with all of this, we still feel we can improve and Maleah

getting a degree as a Veterinary Technician is one step in that direction.

The program will take approximately two years to complete. This is no small feat since she also works full time outside the home, maintains our home, and works several hours each week in the kennel operation.

The medical knowledge attained through this program will allow her to better assist our veterinary in diagnosing problems and provide the best possible preventive medical care possible.

So, now it's time to hit

the books. I'm sure all of our dogs will be willing to keep her pencils sharpened, if not a little chewed!



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Special points of interest:

- Kennel Renovations
- Chow Colors
- Training

D & M Farm Kennel Bred Temperaments

Provided by Owners: John & Michelle of Ohio

D&M Farm Kennel bred watch dogs in action. Great temperaments??? When dad got home he snapped this picture. Obviously, all the stories of protecting the premises during the day are a cover for what really goes on! These guys decided to take advantage of having the bed all to themselves. Watch dogs?????

Hmmm!



Shu-Ling, Thunder, & Thor
"Just five more minutes please . . . It's really great to finally have enough room to stretch!"

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“Guess-timating”

Many of you have asked how we determine when we will have puppies available. We refer to several factors.

First, for veteran mother's we go by the date of their last litter and how many puppies they normally throw in a litter. If we breed to the same sire, we can come pretty close to predicting what colors she may throw. Sex is always an unknown.

For new mother's, we know when they are suppose to come into heat. We can estimate within a two-week window and then we know it will a 63-day gestation period until delivery. We can usually gauge the potential number of puppies by the size of the litter from whence the mother came. Heredity is a wonderful thing and quite predictable.

The colors in a new mother's litter is

always a crap shoot. We can guess by the color of the sire and dam and the colors in their pedigrees; however, Mother Nature can be fickle and she always seems to throw us the unexpected when least expected.

Therefore, we try to “guess-timate” conservatively, but ultimately . . . Mother Nature is in charge.

Enjoying the Snow

Luxy lives in Indiana and enjoyed our recent snow. She is 2 1/2 years old and her parents are Misty and Sampson.

Luxy is loved by her family and they are planning to add another puppy to their family.



Luxy enjoying the snow!

Luxy's baby picture.

Puppy Training

We receive several questions concerning when is the best time to begin puppy training. Your puppy will begin learning from you immediately, whether you intend for it to happen or not.

Training should begin as soon as you get your puppy home. Much of it will be passive training. This is accomplished by removing the puppy from areas where you don't want them to be, and taking things away from them that you do not want them to have. This also include taking them outside to

“Training begins immediately, whether you intend it or not”

“potty” on a regular schedule, which lends itself to housebreaking.

We recommend you not start formal training in a class setting until the puppy is a minimum of three to four months old. This allows the puppy more time for growth and maturity. More importantly, it allows their im-

mune system to strengthen. This is important when exposing your young puppy to other puppies and putting them in a setting where other dogs have been. This could allow them to pick up bacteria, parasites, and/or diseases.

Training classes should be fun and provide another means to socialize your puppy. You can locate puppy training classes by calling your local Humane Society or your local pet store.

The Dog Whisperer

As most of you are probably already aware, there is a show on the National Geographic channel called The Dog Whisperer with Cesar Milan. This program provides a wealth of information for dog lovers.

Cesar Milan is basically a dog behaviorist. He understands pack behavior and is able to correct deviant behavior in dogs. He states, “I train people and

rehabilitate dogs.” This is so true because most of the deviant dog behavior is caused and/or nurtured by the owners. Once they understand the situation from the dog's point of view the behaviors are normally quickly corrected.



Cesar Milan with Daddy.
<http://www.dogpsychologycenter.com/>

His mantra is “exercise, discipline, then affection”. By providing these three things in this order, you can have a happy, well behaved canine companion.

Check it out!

The Five Colors of Chow

Chow Chows have five different coat colors; red, black, cinnamon, blue, and cream. The dominant colors are red and black. The dilute colors are cinnamon, which is a dilute of red, and blue, which is a dilute of black. There is also cream. Although this a recessive color, it is not considered a dilute.

Reds may vary from bright copper to dark mahogany. Reds may also have black or cream highlights. The highlights are normally around the face, mane, leg feathers, and tail. Reds with the cream highlights are often referred to as a "shaded reds".

Blacks are easiest to recognize; however, some black may have red highlights. This often results from excessive direct exposure to the sunlight in the summer months. The red or auburn highlights are also sometimes referred as "rusting". Some blacks may have white hairs throughout their tails and sometimes in their mane.

Cinnamons are by their very name . . . a misnomer. They are not the color of the spice. It is a difficult color to describe and the description changes depending on whom you talk to. AKC doesn't do a very good job of explaining the color, they simply call it "brown". If

you are looking for what you think is "cinnamon", it would be best to describe the color, as you know it, to your breeder. They will then have a better idea of exactly what you are looking for.

Blues are a variation of the color black. They may vary from a bright silvery gray to a charcoal gray. And, just like blacks, there can sometimes be red highlighting in the coat. Again, if you are looking for something specific, you should describe it to the breeder. For example, Teddy, on our website, is a medium gray color. He doesn't have any highlights in his coat. Ceasar on the other hand, has developed some rosy highlights in his coat and cream in his tail. He is an absolutely gorgeous color, but not what most would consider a true blue. However, he doesn't fit into any other color category.

Creames may vary from almost pure white to a buff color. Most chows that appear pure white, have a minimum of buff color around their ears. Daisy is the whitest cream we have ever owned, but even she has some buff on her ears.

It is sometimes quite difficult to be absolutely correct in determining the final coat color until the puppy reaches maturity. We have had puppies that

appeared to be one definite color at birth, but at one year of age they might shed out and change from red to cinnamon or vice versa.

Colors do not affect personality nor temperament. Some have asked if black Chows are more aggressive. Absolutely not. Some of our sweetest tempered Chows have been black.

There is no scientific correlation between the color of a Chow and human allergies.

Hair color is no different than in humans. It is simply genetically driven.

So, if you have a preference as to the color of your Chow, go for it. Look for that special puppy and if it turns out to be the color you were looking for . . . so much the better.

Check out the AKC website for more info on the breed standard at http://www.akc.org/breeds/chow_chow/

The five colors are:

Black

Blue

Red

Cinnamon

Cream

Kennel Renovations

We are constantly trying to find ways to improve our kennel to make it more practical. A couple of weeks ago we started some renovations of our kennel. We installed vinyl paneling on the lower half of the walls in the dog pen areas. This will assist in keeping the area clean. The OSB on the ceiling is now painted white and the walls above the paneling are painted a warm golden leather color.

We put up trim molding and used tons of caulk to seal up every crack and crevice. Since we thoroughly jet spray and sanitize the kennels at least once a week, the seal-

ing is especially important. It now looks 100% better and is more practical.

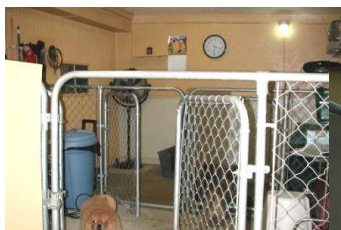
We still need some reorganization in the adjacent wash room area. We have a hot water heater, sink, washer/dryer, microwave, and a small refrigerator in there, along with gen-

erous shelving on the walls.

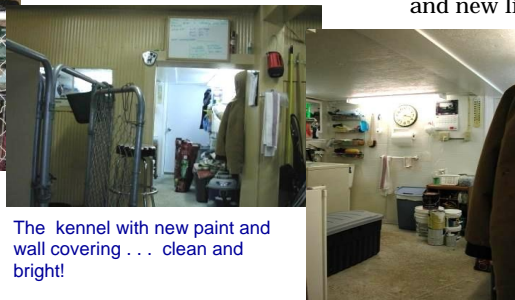
As soon as warm weather gets here, we will start the expansion into an adjacent area within the barn. This will provide extra room for two more kennels and more storage space.

We want to maintain adequate space and comfort for our expectant moms and new litters as well as for any sick or injured animals that might require special care. They all enjoy listening to relaxing music 24/7.

The dogs enjoyed all the extra time we spent in the kennel. It meant extra attention for them, which they always think is a good thing.



China hamming it up!



The kennel with new paint and wall covering . . . clean and bright!

Where all the clean-up takes place.