

HAPPY BEAGLING

Whelping Puppies at Chardon

By **CHUCK KITCHELL**

Our thirteen inch beagle bitch, Chardon Jimmy V Classic, was due to whelp on the fourth of the month.

She did not show any maternal concerns on the due date — just the usual smile and the wag of the tail. No unusual motherly concerns exhibited during the next three days.

Beginning five days prior to the due date she was kept outdoors during the day in a portable 8 x 12 pen and moved daily under the pine trees where she could be alone in the quiet. Several times during the day she was looked in on only to find her enjoying herself lounging in the shade. Each night she was brought inside to sleep in the utility room in a cocker pen where an eye could be better kept on her.

A whelping box was also placed in one corner of a 4' x 4' exercise pen. Both were placed inside a specially made, slightly larger than 4' x 4,' galvanized metal pan with a crimped one inch wall extending around the edge — to keep everything outside and under the pen clean and dry. Papers were arranged inside the nesting box for the anticipated whelping and also outside the box for possible waste absorption.

She had whelped her first litter, two cycles before, without any human help at all, so it was felt that a veterinarian would probably not be called upon this time as well.

Now it was the fourth day after the due date that she began to tear newspapers and show interest in becoming a mother.

About an hour after the local veterinarian closed his doors for the day she began to show sign of wanting to whelp



began to whine and tear papers.

Fresh water was given and ignored; the food container was taken away.

A good supply of newspapers, sharp scissors, towel, electrolyte, Nutri-cal, yogurt, baby scale, folding table, weight chart, and pencil were placed at the ready.

A lawn chair was pulled up for a long night ahead.

At 7:30 p.m. the first bubble appeared. About ten minutes later the head appeared. The bitch probably could have delivered alone as she had done with her first litter, but my wife, Donna, and I thought that we would help the process along a bit. I placed the bitch on the table. Donna held the head of the bitch and offered her comfort and consolation. With an outward and downward motion the puppy was easily and quickly pulled out. (I like to think of the motion as being much like a “comma” on the printed page. Never a straight out motion.) I have recently added a “side to side” motion to the procedure so as to aid in the release of the alternating shoulders.

The bitch was permitted to eat a small portion of the first afterbirth. (Eating of additional afterbirths is not encouraged.) The umbilical cord was cut with the scissors about two inches in length and left to dry and to later fall off.

The puppy was dried with newspapers instead of a towel. The soiled newspa-

pers will be later discarded. No smelly towels to wash after the whelping is completed.

The bitch was returned to the whelping box where she began to clean and put herself back into order.

A bit of Nutri-cal was squeezed from the tube onto the tip of my finger and then placed on the roof of the mouth of the puppy. A bit of yogurt was given in the same manner. One or two ml of electrolyte were slowly dripped into the mouth of the puppy with a three ml syringe (with the needle removed).

The puppy weighed in at eleven respectable ounces. Puppy information was recorded on the chart. The newcomer was identified as “7:50, ‘male, dark face,’ eleven ounces.”

A double length lead was placed on the bitch; a walk outdoors stimulated the next birth. Then back to the whelping box.

No need to see that the first born started nursing immediately. Since the utility room is air-conditioned, Donna placed a 60 watt light bulb and aluminum reflector above the pen to warm and dry the surroundings. (After a day or two the light was removed.)

Back to the lawn chair and magazines.

A second bubble appeared shortly before 9:00 p.m. The procedure was very similar to that of the first puppy. The second whelp was identified as “9:00, female, ‘white to left on neck,’ and eleven ounces.”

Previous postwhelping procedures were repeated.

Back to the lawn chair where I fell asleep.

Just before ten o'clock I heard the bitch strain and awoke to see the third puppy coming along breach. The exposed rear of the puppy was somewhat cold indicating that the puppy had been in the difficult position for some time.

The bitch was placed on the table and the same cooperative delivery procedure with Donna was again followed. This time a towel was placed around the puppy to provide a good nonslip grip.

Delivery was quick and easy. No sign of life. No crying. No movement. No breathing.

The nose was wiped clean and dry. The cord was cut. The puppy was placed up-side-down in a towel and a human breath was exhaled into the mouth of the motionless patient. Then four firm but gentle squeezes to the thorax with the right hand. The process caused small amounts of liquid to bubble from the nose. The work was continued until about 10:30. My back was getting tired from standing all hunched over.

About fifteen minutes after the beginning of The Tonight Show, I sit to watch the comedian. The CPR proceedings were continued. At 11:00 I noticed a tiny single gasp from the puppy. Shortly thereafter another gasp. Soon a gasp was noticed during each CPR cycle. The procedure was changed to one breath and one gentle squeeze. Difficult gasps followed. Then shallow breathing. Then loud crying. Saved.

Previous post whelping procedures were repeated.

The third whelp was identified as "10:45, male, 'spot on back of neck,' and eleven ounces."

Often a cc of oxytocin is administered after the second or third whelp. This

time the injection was not considered. Previous post whelping procedures were followed.

Back to the lawn chair and another quick nap.

At 2:30 I happened to awake to see a puppy still in the amniotic sac with cord

The puppy quickly responded. A-OK. Previous post whelping procedures were followed.

The fourth whelp was identified as "2:30, female, 'full collar, spot by tail,' and eleven ounces."

Just before daylight, a fifth whelp slipped out of the birth canal as easily as an old sow farrowing a litter. Previous post whelping procedures were followed. She was identified on the chart as "4:30, female, 'little stripe on back of neck on right side' and eleven ounces."

The first whelped puppies were now nursing on their own. All were lined up like cordwood. The breasts of the mother were soft and flabby — no need for clavamox. The dam was taken outside for another walk and the possible elimination of body wastes.

Then to the couch for a solid nap until about 9:30 a.m.

The five puppies were weighed morning and night the first week and then once a day the second week.

A few short weeks later, the puppies were on double length leads and were taking me for short walks about the yard.

Is That An Outstanding Puppy?

When evaluating puppies, one of the puppies must stand out from all the others. If you have to ask your wife (or husband) his (or her) opinion, it is not an outstanding puppy. If you have to ask your friends which puppy they like, there is not an outstanding puppy in the litter.

If you think the puppy in question MIGHT develop, it is not an outstanding puppy.

If you think the puppy in question might GROW OUT OF his problem, it is not an outstanding puppy.

If there is an outstanding puppy in the litter, there is no doubt about it. There is no need to ask the opinion of anyone else.

Some judges pick the winner as he (or she) enters the ring. There is no doubt about it. The judge must still go through the accepted measures to validate his original opinion (and follow AKC procedures.)

I often asked the opinion of BJ Orseno when attempting to select a puppy from a particular breeding. She always had a "good eye" for good beagles and was always very helpful. One day I saw her at a show. I told her that her expertise was not needed in selecting a puppy from a particular litter. I knew for sure, one of the puppies was outstanding. That selection won several groups a Best In Show and was the number one bitch in the nation.

Quite some years ago, Bob Henry, Sunnymede Beagles, Ft. Wayne, IN was looking at about 25 puppies running freely about the back yard. In about two minutes he reported, "I want that one." That One earned 13 points in one Wisconsin weekend.

Tony Leahy, MFH (foxhounds) keeps fifty-three and a half couple (not 107) of hounds (not dogs). Leahy talked about his canines in a December issue of Covertside. When asked how he selects puppies from his "five to seven" litters each year, he replied, "I want them to be outgoing, friendly, active, playful...and I want to add...intelligent." When asked what percentage of each year's young entry do you expect to be still in the pack in their fifth season, Leahy replied, "One hundred percent, barring injury or other external factors."

Years ago I shared a litter of seven puppies with a young lady in Florida. I selected a puppy; she selected a puppy; I selected a puppy; she selected a puppy, and so on until all the puppies were removed from the exercise pen but for one red and white male. He stood alone. Four square. Head up. Tail up. Intelligent expression. Great balance. Beautiful head. Strong topline. Adequate bone. It was agreed by all the silent spectators that the red and white male was the best of all. By far. No doubt. He was selected last only because of color. The red male later received group firsts from the puppy class.

A really outstanding puppy needs no discussion, photo, standard or anatomical drawing. Everyone can pick the good puppy.

Happy Beagling
Chuck Kitchell

attached and lying to the rear of the resting bitch. Cold. No motion. I cleared the mouth of membrane and moisture; I cut the cord. A short CPR procedure.

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