



Critters

Our Pets

They fill our lives with unconditional love and wonder and whimsy and devotion. All they ask in return is... Nothing.



A labor of love

By KYRA TURNER

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How much is that doggie in the window? Well, it's about \$2,000, but to those that love it, this pup's worth every penny.

Steve and Tammy Carpenter are Kings Mountain's primary English bulldog breeders.

Their females Izzy and the late, Lola, had two litters six to seven weeks ago. Izzy had a three-puppy litter. Lola had 10 puppies – it took a toll on her little body.

With English Bulldogs, you have to have them artificially inseminated because of the bulldog's stamina. An excited male could die in the mating process.

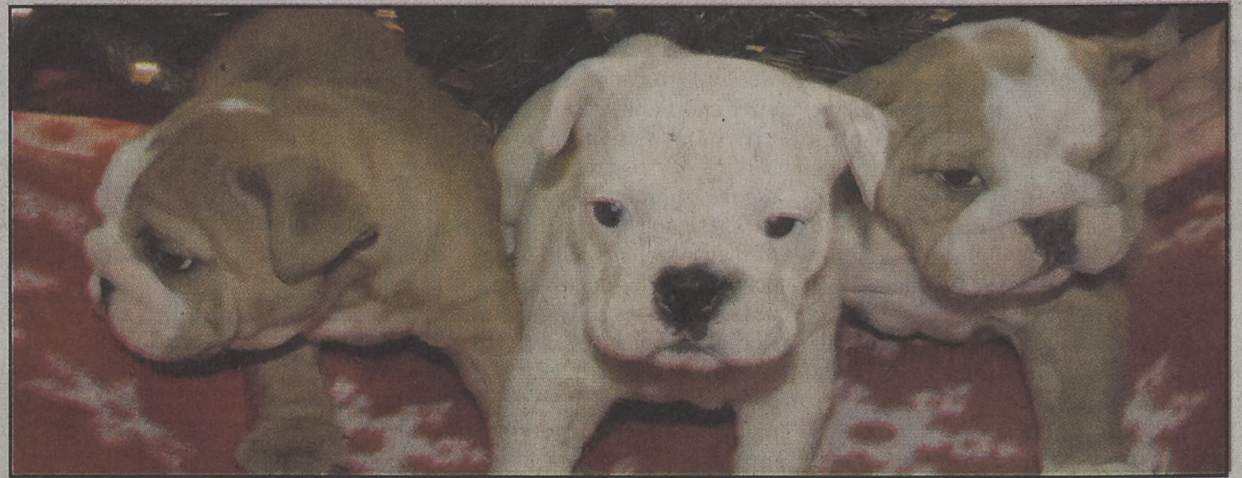
The Carpenters will drive their females an hour away and leave them there for one week to be artificially inseminated.

After getting pregnant the female is driven by the Carpenters two-and-a-half hours away to a veterinarian specialist to have a cesarean birth. The puppy's face and shoulders are too wide for the mother to deliver naturally.

"You have to love the dogs to be a breeder," Tammy commented. "We do this because we love them and love to take care of them."

The first litter was born to Izzy. These puppies are the grandchildren of the famous English bulldog sire, Rocky, who was chosen by George Clooney to premiere in the 2006 football movie "Leatherheads".

The second litter was born to Lola and are the children of the back-up bulldog for Rocky in "Leatherheads". This sire's name is Moose.



Rocky and Moose are the sires of Sally and Tom Cathcart, who are professional breeders from western North Carolina.

The Carpenters have been breeding English bulldogs for 12 years. They usually breed two times a year. They have had 20 litters in total.

This all started when Tammy wanted to purchase an English bulldog for their family but found out that they were too expensive. Tammy called up a friend that works as a local veterinarian and asked her to let her know if she heard of a bulldog on sale.

As time went on, Tammy got a call from her friend who said that a local breeder just had one of his females bred but had to have her fixed because she had some medical issues. The breeder was going to have her put to sleep but the vet refused to put a healthy dog to sleep. She called Tammy to ask her if she would like to come by and talk to him about paying the vet bills. She told her that she may be able to persuade him to sale the dog to her.

They ended up buying Dakota and kept her for years until she passed away. When she passed, they decided to buy another female, Harley, and to breed her to make puppies for other families.

See PUPPIES on Page 6C

PET OF THE MONTH



Rocco is a Frug (a French Bulldog Pug) rescued three years ago from a puppy mill. She now lives in KM.

Would you like to see your pet as our Pet of the Month?

Just send us a picture of you and your pet. Tell us why your pet is special or how you & your pet found each other, etc.

Each month we will choose one pet and its person to be featured on our **Critters** page.

All entries will be included in a drawing at the end of the year for a prize for your pet.

It's easy: Stop by our office, mail it to 700 E. Gold St., Kings Mountain NC 28086 or Email your photo and info to us at pets.kmherald@gmail.com. Please include your name and phone number so we may contact you.

Keep your pets safe this holiday

The Holidays are here and with all the decorating and family coming in it's tough to keep up with what we have to do, let alone watch what our 4-legged children are getting into.

Some of the things we use for festive reasons can also be harmful to our pets. Icicles put on the tree and ribbons from boxes are so tempting to play with but if ingested these items can cause major problems, even a blockage that could be life threatening requiring surgery.

Chocolate from all the goodies we seem to devour can also be harmful. Dark chocolate is the most harmful.

Melting wax pots and scented liquid potpourri that we all

use during the season to make our home smell wonderful can be fatal to cats, if ingested. Not to mention the nasty burns that can originate from the melting pots.

And last but not least, instead of feeding your Fido from the table, why not keep a small dish of your pet's favorite treats handy to feed him when he begs to join the family in feast? Hopefully, this will curb the vomiting and diarrhea that a lot of pets experience after holiday feasts.

We wish each and everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday.

-Whiskers, Nails and Puppy Dog Tails
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