

Puppies: a labor of love



Photo by KYRA TURNER

The Carpenter's puppies trying to pose for pictures while chewing on the Christmas tree.

From Page 5C



"We sell about all of the puppies unless we are retiring a female and need a new female to breed," Tammy explained. "We do not sell to other breeders because we do not know what kind of condition the puppies would go into. These dogs are our family and we want the best for them."

"When the puppies are born we bottle feed and help the mothers nurse until they are around four to five weeks old," Tammy said. "After the puppies have their shots they can't nurse anymore so we wean them onto puppy chow. This time Lola died from a blood clot to the lungs a couple days after having her litter so Izzy had to step in and help nurse her pups while we also bottle fed."

The puppies are around six to seven weeks old when they can be bought and taken home to other families. They can reserve a puppy before this time but can't pick them up until they are ready.

The Carpenters also try to potty train the puppies to a puppy pad so they are ready to be inside dogs when they are bought.

"This is really a 24 hour, seven days a week job because they have to be looked after and fed at certain times," Steve said. "They wake up in the middle of the night barking because they are hungry or need to use the bathroom."

These dogs also need extra care because of their problems with breathing. The Carpenters have air-conditioned and heated kennels for the dogs and keep the puppies inside. Because of their breathing problems they can't survive long in heat. Also they need to be watched when nursing because either the mother can accidentally smother them or they can get pneumonia from breathing in the milk.

These are loving, wonderful, lazy dogs who love to chew and eat. They usually live between 10-12 years.

"Families in the past who have bought puppies from us like to keep us updated and send pictures and emails to let us know how things are going," Steve commented.

It's a labor of love, which the Carpenters intend to keep alive.

Because of their pedigree each puppy sells for around \$2,000.

For more information about English Bulldogs please visit www.mybabybullies.com.

Grover showered with back-to-school supplies



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Cleveland County Chapter of the North Carolina Retired School Personnel showered Grover Elementary with back-to-school supplies after its September 6th meeting. Vice-President NCRSP Connie Savell (right) and Wendy Lemons Guidance Counselor at Grover Elementary.

Scary Story Winners



KYRA TURNER/HERALD

The winners of the Kings Mountain Herald's Scary Story Contest - all from North Elementary - are Maddox Brown, Abby McGirt, Tyler Smith and Carter Hurt, pictured with Herald Editor Emily Weaver.

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