
Clip marks:

Once the pups are born, they are weighed and then put in order based on their sex, color and size (not based on birth order), then they receive their clips or shave marks for identification.

male black

male yellow

male chocolate

female black

female yellow

female chocolate

If they are Golden Retrievers or a litter of all one color, they are put in order based on sex and birth weight.

If the litter has more than one color, **the order is black, yellow then chocolate.**

This means that a yellow male might weigh more than a black male at birth, but his clip (and ID number) will still be lower.

And it's very important to note that birth weight does not necessarily correlate to a puppy's size at any other point in their life. Here's an example: The Parson/Bloomer litter from 10/26/2013 had nine puppies and they were black male Galahad 52K1, black male Galileo 52K2, black male Garmin 52K3, yellow male Gonzalo 52K4, yellow male Gotham 52K5, yellow male Gromit 52K6, black female Gabrielle 52K7, yellow female Gertrude 52K8 and yellow female Grace 52K9.

Clip marks go in this order for both males and females.

- #1 Right shoulder (RS),
- #2 Left shoulder (LS),
- #3 Right hip (RH),
- #4 Left hip (LH),
- #5 Double shoulder (DS),
- #6 Double hip (DH),
- #7 Right shoulder right hip (RSRH),
- #8 Left shoulder left hip (LSLH)
- #9 Double shoulder right hip (DSRH),
- #10 Double shoulder left hip (DSLH)
- #11 Right shoulder double hip (RSDH),
- #12 Left shoulder double hip (LSDH)

and if there was 13 of one sex that last puppy would be double shoulder double hip (DSDH)! That would be a lot of clipping!

Identification Numbers:

What is the system used to assign the identification numbers to puppies, and how can I use it to determine if puppies on the training phase report are littermates?

As you all know, each litter is assigned a letter. In general, we tend to go in the order of the alphabet when assigning the next litter, but that can never be certain because we also ensure that each dam's litters begin with a different letter (i.e. we wouldn't want a dam with two "S" litters). Also, if we happen to get a very small litter, we might use a more "unique" letter like Q or X for their names.

The identification numbers, though, always go in order. Right now, we are in the 5 series. This series started with a puppy assigned 5A00.

The ID always starts with a number, and then the letter moves from left to right.

So, after the puppy assigned 5A99, the next puppy would be 50A0 (then 50A1).

When we get to 59A9, the next puppy would be 500A.

And when a puppy is assigned 599A, the next puppy will be 5B00.

This goes through the alphabet, although we do skip a few letters, namely "I", "O" and "Q". In the past, when the puppy's ID was also tattooed in its ear, these letters could be too easily confused with numbers.

When the last puppy in the 5 series is born and assigned 599Z, we will move on to the 6 series.

Names:

Most of the time, the alphabetical order of the puppies' names correlates to the order of shave marks (by clip, sex and color). When the puppies are named, we almost always use alphabetical order for each sex, so the alphabetical name of the first male puppy would be the right shoulder (if Labs black first; if no blacks then yellow, etc). The females are alphabetized the same way. There are exceptions, of course, but this is true for the majority of litters.