

Puppies, Kids, Puppy buyers, and Collars and keeping track of who is really “Who”!

By Laura Myles

We have had generally one to two litters a year since the late 70's. During this time we have also raised a family. The two are very compatible, except for when our kids were little and fell into love with a puppy special to them...and of course *never* the pick of the litter.

It slowly worked out that we quit naming them and taught the kids that they were called a color. I am sure some psychologist could tell me why it helped. At least we no longer had children crying making the puppy buyers feel bad and (yes this really happened) offering to take another puppy. And having to send your husband back multiple times saying no it's the other liver puppy with no body markings sure didn't make points either.

Well it was a working idea, and we started out with colors but then how did we make sure each puppy was that color. Finger polish was a joke, amusing, but no way... We tried the zig zaggy type of Rik Rak ribbon but there weren't enough colors even dividing it up by sex, and they were too heavy along with not tying well. Finally though I came across polyester spools of ribbon in 1/8 of an inch (3mm) that came in enough colors to do a litter of 14, not repeat a color and not run out of that color before the pups left. You do have to know the difference between tying a slip knot or some other type that won't slide and choke a baby. I generally double knot my tie just to be sure. Whoever is sitting with the mom while she whelps is who gets to pick the new arrivals color. That is what they stay until the leave for their new homes.



Every four or so days as they grow we put a new, shiny collar on them and check toenails. We have had no problems with moms trying to wash them off, and the little guys grow up wearing collars from literally day one and never have issues with wearing something on their necks.

A side benefit of the color tagging is that when we take photos we no longer have to describe the puppy; it's simply, “the red collar male”, and so on. Puppy buyers have

indicated that they really like the ease in remembering a couple of colors for the babies they liked. I also use it to help the puppy buyers let me know which ones they don't like.

In Word, I paste a photo of each puppy and label it with its collar color, which ID's them for markings, and general coloring. This page then goes in that litters folder attached to the Breeder Records form and becomes a part of the litters' permanent identification.

