

Week 5

Briarlea Bouviars

**Cyrano
Ruby**

• Shopping list:

- Crate
- Food—we are feeding NutriSource Large Breed Puppy (www.nutrisource.com)
- Toys and collar, harness, leashes
- Slicker Brush, metal comb, scissors, nail clippers
- www.revivalanimal.com—good source for shampoo, etc.
- Maybe an ex-pen and grooming table and clippers if you're a do-it-yourselfer
- Training treats
- Quiet place for your pup to call his own
- Videos—if you're interested in obedience or tracking, we like Joanne Fleming's videos for these sports!
- For you ~ walking shoes, raingear, hats and sun-screen!

What's happening?!

This coming week we will spend time with the puppies doing things to stimulate their little brains.

We plan to take them on their first car ride—up to my son Seth's home in Royalton, MN (see more about Seth at www.rozyckiwoodworks.com where he has a one-man business building saunas) and to spend the night with the pups and Ruby at his home. They'll get a lot of kid-time with our grandson Anthony and his neighborhood kids.

Generally, if we are in warm weather, the pups will begin to take walks around the farm at this age. Not having that option, I'll put a wading pool out for them to explore and will begin to do some attention training with food.

Training?? Aren't they too young for 'training??' Well, no. What I'll do is to have a whole pile of teeny bits of hot dog (they prefer beef) and little pieces of cheese. I will call them to me with "Puppy ! Puppy!" and, since that's what we've been doing each time I feed them, they will run to me. At some point they will look up at my face and I will immediately treat those pups. The pups that didn't look up will figure out the game very fast. Of course I am 5'3" and they are 8" so it might be possible that I kneel on the floor the first few times, or until they understand the reward game. This begins the process for all the work that the pups will do as they begin



..their training career. In most sports or even in everyday living, it's helpful to have the pup orient to you when you say his name. So, while I doubt any of the pups will be named "Puppy" it is still beginning the groundwork for this training. Good treats are those

that are small enough and moist enough that the pup does not need to stop and chew them much if at all...but not so small that he can inhale and choke.

If I'm using hot dogs, I cut one into about 20 rounds and then further cut each round into 4 pieces. I use this size for a lot of training. You can microwave them if you choose although I tend to cut them fresh each training day.

Vaccination suggestions

Vaccinations

Your veterinarian will likely have his/her own thoughts about vaccination. You may wish to look at the link on our website to see what

we feel is appropriate. Your puppy will have had a nasal vaccine for kennel cough as well as a distemper and parvovirus vaccine before leaving home but we do not

feel that combination vaccines are the best way to protect your puppy so please give this some thought ..

Growing up Canine ~All Dogs Have Certain Rights

Carol Lea Benjamin

We all have goals for our dogs; a nice, obedience pet, a companion for the children, an obedience, tracking, or field trial dog, a breed champion, a protector, a bed warmer, a therapy dog or a movie star. But your dog has an existence separate from his life as your pet. Before everything else, he is a dog, has a right and need to be a dog, can't be anything but a dog, and as such, he has the inalienable right to grow up canine.

He has a right to have his natural language understood. Aside from teaching him English (sit, stay, down, come, do you want to go for a ride?) you should speak canine – not just understand it, but speak it. You should know the meaning of all his gestures, facial expressions, body language and sounds, those endemic to dogs in general, those specific to your own dog. You should imitate these gestures in order to communicate with your dog in his own tongue. He has a need and right to be understood, as all living creatures do.

He has a right to natural structure in his life – some order to his pack, a clear leader, a clear pecking order, some consistency. This gives him a sense of order in the universe, a sense that his world is understandable and clear. This allows him to know how to proceed. It makes him secure and comfortable in a way that always getting his way cannot.

He has a right to education. He has a mind and a desire to use it. He is born, as we are, with curiosity and intelligence. His life will be richest if he can use both to the maximum. Your bonus – educated, he'll be an infinitely more interesting companion.

If you have a dog, and nothing for him to do, you can expand your dog's potential by dipping into his specific talents (guarding and herding come to mind) as well as the general talents of his special (tracking, scent discrimination, obedience and agility.) You can give him work around the house and in your neighborhood (collecting twigs in the yard, carrying packages from the store, sounding the alarm when someone comes.) You can make him the ambassador of good cheer, teaching him sociable tricks (give your paw, find an object, speak, howl on command) and having him help entertain your family and friends or, if time permits, people in nursing homes and hospitals. There are jobs to be done that any dog can apply himself to and be the better dog for it.

He has the right to use what he's got. He has a body, muscles, energy; he must flex himself. He must move. Insufficient exercise is one of the underlying causes of many dog problems. Simply stated, the more energy your dog uses up constructively, the less energy he'll have available to use up destructively. He needs more than running around. He needs some planned exercise to increase confidence, agility, speed, strength, stamina, especially if you have big plans for him—to be a working dog, an obedience dog or a great companion.

He has a right to privacy. There are times he may just want to be left alone. Every creature needs time to rest, adjust, be alone, time to integrate what he has learned, time to go blank and do nothing, time just to 'be.'

He has a right to the company of his own species. Yes—he loves you. No—that's not enough. Only another dog can understand him and play with him in a perfectly smooth way with no communication glitches; with no physical awkwardness.

He has the right to be protected. He needs protection from the elements—excessive heat and cold. He needs a warm, dry place to sleep. If he had his druthers, that place would be in your room. He needs a wholesome diet and a supply of fresh, clean water. He needs someone—you—who will consider his needs for a small part of every day.

He has the right to be leashed or fenced, or at the very least, accompanied when he goes out. He cannot understand what a car could do to him. There are no car-smart dogs, only drivers with quick instincts and good brakes.

He has the right to be loved. In this, he is no different from you and me.

He has a right to be disciplined. He is a dog. It is a natural, understandable, important part of being a dog to learn from and get order through both positive and negative reinforcement, whether that comes from you or from another dog. Think of his mother. Yes—she petted and cleaned him with her smooth tongue, she nuzzled him she let him sleep near the considerable warmth of her body. But she also growled and snarled at him when he was in danger, cheeky or out of line in any way. She also slammed him with her paw when his behavior needed editing. She was swift, fair and graceful. Her communication was always perfect. This is part of a dog's natural life—praise and correction, rewards and punishment, positive and negative reinforcement. It doesn't matter to the dog what you call it; it only matters that it is part and parcel of what makes life comfortable and clear to a dog.

And saddest of all to have to say, **he has the right not to be subjected to pain and torture,** nor be held captive in an unloving and fearful place, nor to live a hopeless life and die when his caretakers have finished using him. He has a right not to be regarded, because he cannot speak for himself, as less than we are. Anyone who lets himself truly know a dog will know he is not less, just different.

In all his various shapes and sizes, he is magnificent to behold—loyal and funny, graceful and touching, natural, smart, mysterious, important. There's not much around as wonderful as the dog. Given his canine rights, he'll give the world in return.



Solo was started as a pup in exactly the method described on the first page—here he is earning his Schutzhund BH and look at that attention!