

A chocolate covered treat in disguise...

# Truffles

...our little water dog!

*Welcome to our family!*

Truffles was born on May 2, 2012, a day before my birthday and we brought her home on June 24th, a day after Bob's birthday.

Truffles is "brown sugar and spice and everything nice that little puppies are made of". She is an Australian, chocolate brown, Labradoodle who is developing auburn streaks. Her fur is wavy and she has curls that any of us would be envious of not to mention that she would be ideal for a Clairol Hair Product photo shoot. She has amber eyes and what they refer to as a rose nose that is rosy pinkish in colour.







Paddy at Cranfield Kennels in Grand Bend let us take Truffles home before her first vaccination as we were going up north for 10 days to the cottage, We took her to our own vet before we left so she got a clean bill of health. They told us she would be a great looking “show dog” and she weighed in at just over 6 lbs. When we got ready to take Truffles home from the breeder, Biddie, her mother, hopped in the car with us. Biddie has deep, attentive eyes and you felt like she was looking at your soul to see if you were the chosen one for her puppy. Biddie looks like a multi-coloured Labrador Retriever. Her father, Podge, looked like a poodle but both were Australian Labradoodles. Biddie also has 10% Wheaten Terrier in her to enhance more boldness and confidence. The Wheaten is the chosen breed of my sister, Norma and her husband, Frank and they have three of them. Biddie’s grandfather was a Grand Champion Wheaten Terrier so no wonder Truffles looks so good.

Truffles was part of a litter of 9 puppies – brown, beige and black and she was nursing and eating kibble right up to when we brought her home.

Bob and I have been both excited and apprehensive being parents once again after our tragedy with Fleecy. I asked Fleecy to help me raise Truffles. I thought I would never be able to sleep in again but I’ve been mistaken. Truffles prefers a metal cage-type kennel to sleep in so she can see me at all times and even through I’ve gotten up in the middle of the night and early morning, to take her for a pee, she has easily settled in to sleep once again and so have I. It is easy to stick your hand in the cage and give her reassurance but those sharp shark teeth keep you on your toes. It is truly wonderful to have your puppy beside you so you can sneak a peak and see how beautiful she is.

We also got her used to a more traditional kennel so she is sleeping in the kitchen. Our goal is to have her sleep in the kitchen on a regular basis so we can have uninterrupted sleep.

Norma visited us on the same day we brought Truffles home and came armed with gifts, supplies and equipment. Susan and her daughter, Gabi also spoiled Truffles with a bag of treats including a stuffed lamb. Kathy and Maria gave us a Dog First Year book to track important accomplishments. Paul & Heather gave her a stuffed toy and a flashing red light for night walking. Norma and I walked down the street holding Truffles. She was heavy so we shared the holding. Until she gets more shots she is not to be walked on the street, go into lake or pool water or associate with other dogs.







She plays in a sandbox on the side driveway and then hops into her doggie pool and then back into the sand so you will understand the condition of our kitchen floor. Even when the pool is turned over she walks on the top of it for the noise I am sure. She pulls at the plants, chases Casey, chews on the hens and chickens and walks behind anything she can like the climbing roses, iron stove and other plants.

Right from the beginning she yelped to go outside and today on July 1st she sat twice while offered a mini dog cookie. She has now learned to shake a paw at 10 weeks as I write this.

She has her Mother's loving, adoring eyes and is very calm but more hyper upon waking. The cats have accepted her each in their own way. They have been curious and inquisitive. Casey, our senior Wal-Mart Greeter black cat sits on his favourite white wicker table shelf up north and lets Truffles kiss him. At home I had them both on the rocking chair as I rocked them early morning. Casey watches over both of us when I take Truffles out to pee at night. Poppy, our Blue Persian, who bonded the best with Fleecy, remains standoffish but also sits exposed to any manoeuvres by Truffles. Panda Bear, our Himalayan Tabby-Point is always "the observer" sitting under furniture to watch or sniffing Truffles when she is sleeping. They pussy-foot around her.

The baby gates have gone up again. The tablecloths have come off. Pillows are piled somewhere else, the dish towels are hanging on the high cupboard doors so we have been able to learn through experience what to do. Our lives are calmer even with the pee and poop on the floor as babies will be babies.

We bless our good fortune by thanking you for your support and encouragement. We have had a challenging journey but God placed us in a caring and loving position with open hearts to adopt another dog. Although it was soon, it was what our hearts wanted.

If you see me smiling you know it is because our pets give us great joy. The animal kingdom is there at our invitation to be our companions and friends unconditionally and a part of our lives in this world. When your heart is open, a pet will walk in to your life and travel with you in your life's journey. We hope you too will consider adoption.

With love by Gail McNaughton, July 14, 2012

