

EXTRA INFORMATION ABOUT MERRY DOG LISTENER'S **MAPLEBORDERS** BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES

Don't forget to check out the photos of our past pups! (In the Photo Gallery on the website puppy page, and in our Facebook page photo albums!)

Please note: There are some Border Collie puppy features (such as Ears & Coat) that are not clear, or 100% predictable, when they are very young, and will develop as they mature.

Colours - colours that Rory and Floss produce will include Red & White, Blue Merle, & Black & White, but there is no guarantee that we will get all three colours in every litter. Sometimes our Blue Merle puppies develop tan highlights, on their legs and face, but they are still 'blue merles', not tri-coloured pups.

Ears - Our puppies may have fully folded, half-folded or prick ears, as all these options are present in their background. (See photo of parents/grandparents on website for examples of all the possibilities!)

Coat - The majority of our Puppies have a medium length coat. Occasionally we have one with a heavier (long) coat. A medium coat (such as Floss's) is usually relatively low maintenance, but will still require occasional brushing and washing (only if grubby), and regular checking for grass seeds etc. A heavier & longer coat (such as Rory's) does require more maintenance -

- Brushing each week and regular checking (daily, if exposed to grassy areas) for grass-seeds etc.
- Regular grooming, and washing after swimming or rolling in sand or mud, will be needed. I occasionally have Rory partly shaved (under all 4 legs) to assist with ease of grooming, and to avoid felting or dreadlocks - this works very well and reduces grooming considerably. I do NOT recommend shaving off a Border Collie's complete coat!
- I also have a few special grooming tools, such as a dematting tool, which assist greatly.
- Grooming needs to be started EARLY (from the very beginning!) so that the pup learns that it is a pleasant experience that earns pats and treats!

Eye-colour - although blue when young, puppies' eyes can change to be brown, from light to dark. However, Rory has a blue flint in one of his grey eyes and so some of our puppies may have a different coloured eye or eyes.

Nose colour – Most of the puppies have black noses. However, the red puppies may well have liver-coloured noses. (This is because they have some chocolate colour coated dogs in their breeding background). Liver coloured noses require extra care when the dog is regularly out in the sunshine – including specially formulated sunscreen for dogs (definitely NOT human sunscreen). If not protected, they may develop ‘collie nose’, a serious auto-immune disease similar to skin cancer. I strongly recommend the use of dog sunscreen for ALL Border Collies for when they are out in the sun for longer than 30 minutes.

Adult dog size – the comparative size of the puppies in the litter is not necessarily an indication of their adult size. The smallest one on the litter may ‘catch up’ and be an average build. The big robust puppy may well also average out as well. Males as adults are on average about 5 cm taller, and up to 5+kilos heavier, than the females. The majority of our dogs become small to medium size Border Collies, but we do get the occasional taller one..!

Personality – From the time my pups are about 3 weeks of age I am able to commence developing an understanding of their basic personalities. A lot has been written about “assessing” puppy temperaments, and I think experienced breeders have all developed our own processes...! I will look forward to discussing with each new puppy family, what is potentially best for their circumstances. However, I do believe it is always clear to an experienced breeder which pups fall into the following general categories –

- Bolder, more confident pups - with natural ‘leadership’ potential
- Middle of the pack. Confident, but happy to go ‘with the flow’
- Quieter (but not shy) – just content to be more of a follower.

There are positive aspects to all these personalities, but each one may also bring different challenges in training and integration into their new home environment.

I believe it is my responsibility to assist new owners to select a puppy with the personality that will most likely suit their family circumstances. Consistent integration of Dog Listening principles, and force-free training techniques, into one’s lifestyle will do the rest to ensure a happy, stress-free, calm and responsive companion dog.

Please do not hesitate to contact Merry on 0417 832 551 for any additional information about MapleBorders Border Collie puppies.