

GUIDE DOG PUPS' TATTOO NUMBERS & BODY CLIPPING

Rev: July 21, 2008 Unofficial: Created by J. R. Toole 1

GDB TATTOO NUMBER SEQUENCE This isn't official by any means, but I believe the GDB tattoo ID numbers follow this sequence: S=Series number from 1-9 (we're currently at 4) plus 1 letter and 2 numbers. The series number is always first and the position of the letter and other numbers changes this way: S Letter Number Number 4A00 – 4A99 S Number Letter Number 40A0 – 49A9 S Number Number Letter 400A – 499A Then the letter changes to the next higher in the alphabet: S Letter Number Number 4B00 – 1B99 S Number Letter Number 40B0 – 49B9 S Number Number Letter 400B – 499B Once Z and all possible combination of the above numbers have been used, the "series" number will change to 5. I been told that when pups are 4 weeks old, the Breeding Dept. assigns tattoo numbers and does the tattoos according to the "clip/weight" (shoulder shave) list from Whelping. (See page 2) I believe the first "series" number is currently being omitted from the ear tattoos but is included on each pup's collar tags and paperwork. Thus, the ID 4B33 ear tattoo would just be B33 Note: An "x" after a tattoo number (e.g., 427Bx), indicates that the tattoo number was mistakenly assigned (and imprinted) to two different pups, a human error. Also, the letters "I", "O", and "Q" aren't used since they might cause confusion.

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PUPPY "CLIP WEIGHT" OR BODY SHAVING When you receive a new puppy, you may notice that a portion of its coat has been clipped or shaved. This is done immediately after a litter is whelped and the clip/shave marks are used to identify the each puppy before its tattoo is assigned and imprinted. After the entire litter is born, Whelping separates males from females. If it is a litter with both black and yellow pups, the black ones go first (it's the dominant gene). All black males (including any stillborns) get weighed with the heaviest one receiving RS then LS, RH. Once all black males are clipped, then the yellow males get weighed with the heaviest yellow one receiving the next shave mark. (If there were 4 black males, then the heaviest yellow male would be a DS or double shoulder). Then the females are weighed and the process is repeated, starting with the heaviest black female and going onto the yellow females. Here's the shave order: RS - right shoulder LS - left shoulder RH -right hip LH - left hip DS - double shoulder DH - double hip RSRH - right shoulder right hip LSLH - left shoulder left hip DSRH - double shoulder right hip DSLH - double shoulder left hip RSDH - right shoulder double hip LSDH - left shoulder double hip Rarely are clip/shave markings past LSLH necessary. Having to go beyond that would mean there were 8 pups of the same sex in one litter. Note: Neither the weight of a puppy nor its clip/shave markings have anything to do with its temperament or how large it will be at maturity. The heaviest puppy is not necessarily the dominant pup in a litter and may not necessarily be the largest at maturity.

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EXAMPLES: Your puppy's number is 4H01, another pup in your group is 40H2, a third is 413H. Which pup is the oldest? (*4H01*) Which pup is the youngest? (*413H*) Are all 3 from the same litter? (*Not possible; from 3 different litters.*) Which pup is older: 301X or 4A01? (*301X because 3 is a lower "series" number.*) Two new pups were just delivered to raisers in your group. One pup is a right-shoulder-shave yellow male and the other pup is a right-shoulder-shave black female. Which one will have the higher tattoo number? (*The male because males are shaved first and therefore receive tattoo numbers before the females in the litter.*) Were there any black males in that litter? (*No, because then the yellow male wouldn't have received a right shoulder shave/clip.*) In a litter of 6 black pups there is only one male. Where is he shaved? (*On his right shoulder, then the heaviest female is shaved on her right shoulder, etc.*) In a litter of 8 pups there are 4 black males, 2 black females, 1 yellow male, and 1 yellow female. The yellow male is a DS (double shoulder) shave, does that mean he is the fifth heaviest male in the litter? (*Not necessarily, the 4 black males were weighed and shaved first. You don't have enough information to know if the yellow male is heavier or lighter than any of the 4 black males or indeed any pup in the entire litter.*) You have one of the black females and her left shoulder is shaved. Is she the heavier female? (*No, the other black female was heavier and received a right-shoulder shave.*) How was the one yellow female shaved/clipped. (*On her right hip.*)