

Natsumisou Shikoku Kennel



Newsletter

June 2018, part 1

Preparation mating:

Natsumi visited her vet to make sure she thrives during her pregnancy. Natsumi received proper prenatal care. With the help of titers, a blood sample was submitted to determine that she has enough antibodies to ensure immunity against diseases. Natsumi was also dewormed with a suitable wormer for pregnant bitches, to make sure worm infestation is not passed on to the puppies.

Mating:

Natsumi mated with ShinRyu of Shikoku House on April 20th. An ultrasound performed by her vet Frederik Haaksema on May 16th confirmed her pregnancy.

Care:

We take utmost care to keep Natsumi in excellent shape. She stays strong and keeps her muscle tone throughout her pregnancy thanks to her daily walks, though these are now shorter and more careful than usual. Natsumi enjoys the fenced garden and gets all the fresh air, sunshine and natural exercise a dog could want for. As an added bonus, the mother-to-be and pups receive massages daily.

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Nutrition:

Natsumi maintains her regular diet and eating habits. However, she is given high-quality dog food. This varied diet is spread out over the week and consists of fish (salmon, codfish, herring, and “white fishes”), different meats (no pork), carrot chunks, assorted pitted fruits, boiled eggs (with shells), rice and whole wheat bread.

Preparing for the big day:

Natsumi is the calm itself and enjoys laying by my side. At night her spot of choice is her bench where I have made her a special den. Natsumi is an affectionate, sensitive and honest Shikoku with an amazing connection to the primitive roots of her species (in heat once a year). A friend through thick and thin, something I wish for you too.

At this time the whelping box is in place so Natsumi can grow comfortable with it and it is ready for use. We purchased a digital scale so we can monitor the growth of the puppies.

The first litter will start with the letter A and we have chosen the name **Atae** , which means **gift**.

