

Puppy Uglies

This is something that is well known to all breeders, but not always explained to first time Aussie parents!

You know the stage in human children when their teeth may be the largest part of their body, or they look like they are walking on stilts. Part of the body just grew so fast, but the rest really needs to play catch up. We've all gone through it, so we can laugh about it now. Puppies have a similar stage often referred to as the "Puppy uglies" or "awkward teenage look."

Around the age of 16 weeks you once fluffy, cute little puppy is going to have a bit of a change. Their ears are going to grow way too big for that little head, the muzzle is going to go from a tiny cute muzzle to a long pointy over-sized muzzle, their legs go from low rider to monster truck style, and that fluffy soft coat falls out and looks like someone just painted color onto their skin. It is so awkward looking that it's cute.

Now the good news! This stage is fairly short lived, so enjoy it while you can and take a lot of pictures! Generally; around the age of 8 months they are already working their way through their puppy uglies, although this varies significantly by lines and can take until 12 months or later in some cases! I can't even tell you how many times I have been contacted and asked "what happened to my puppy??" followed by pictures. My first response of laughing never helped the case, so I try to cover it before puppies are brought home if I hear they are first time aussie owners.

Some puppies get hit hard by the puppy uglies, while others are barely touched. Just to make this more fun I'll add a few examples of puppy uglies! I have two examples of cute puppy to awkward phase to somewhat adult look followed by a page full of puppy uglies! I do have adult pictures of all of the ones posted on the last page, but to keep this shorter I have just included their awkward phase.

By Chris Janssen

Pinky



First we have 12 weeks, 5 months, and finally 10 months.

Belle



These pictures are at 8 weeks, 18 weeks, and 10 months!

Now for fun I will post some of my “worst” puppy uglies!



It's something you can always look back on and wonder how your puppy went from “that” to “this.”
This is one of my absolute favorite stages in development for puppies!