

# Scout's Puppies

by Kenni Alden ♦ illustrated by Gail Guth





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It has been nine weeks. Scout's puppies have been growing inside her for long enough. She lies down on a warm blanket. It is time for her to give birth.



Scout has five puppies. As they are born, she cleans and dries each one.



Their eyes and ears are closed, but their noses work. The puppies smell milk. Scout nudges them toward it. To grow, the puppies must get enough food and rest.

At first, the puppies sleep all the time. They only wake up to eat. When they have had enough milk, they go back to sleep.







Scout gets up to eat and stretch. But when a puppy cries, she hurries back. The puppies can't be on their own for long.



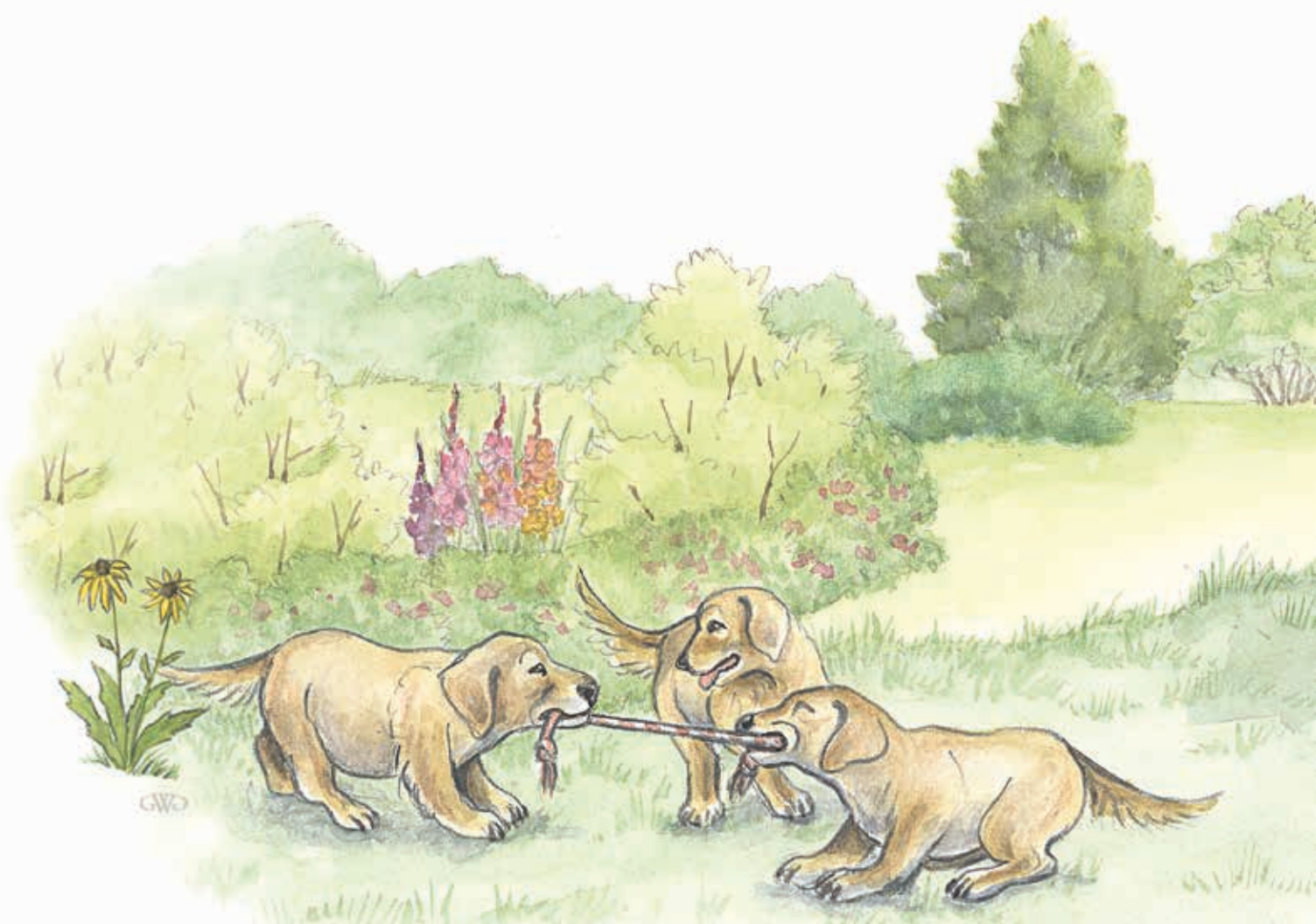
Now it has been about two weeks. The puppies can see and hear, but they can't walk yet. They watch their mother. They still cry if they don't know where she is.

After about one month, the puppies are old enough to play. They can bite, growl, wag their tails, and bark. Scout will watch as they play. She does not let them get hurt.



Scout has also been giving the puppies less milk. They start to eat dog food.





After a few weeks, the puppies don't need Scout as much. Before, they cried when she was out. Now they play on their own.



The puppies can keep each other warm, too. They pile into a heap to sleep.





Before, Scout would not let the puppies go far. If one puppy tried to walk off, Scout would bring it back. Now she lets them explore.





The puppies watch Scout to see how she does things. They watch each other, too. They need to know a lot to live on their own.



The puppies have been with their mother for about two months. They are old enough to go to new homes. Five lucky people will take puppies home. They will get to watch their puppies grow into big dogs!



