



Brood and Puppy Care After Whelping

(541)826-9220

10175 Wheeler Rd

Central Point, OR 97502

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS2

First 48 Hours.....3

First Week (Days 0 – 7)3

Second Week (Days 8 – 14)14

Third Week (Days 15 – 21)20

Fourth Week (Days 22 - 28).....24

Fifth Week (Days 29 - 35)30

Sixth Week (Days 36 - 42)34

Seventh Week (Days 43 - 49)40

Eighth Week (Days 50- 56)42

Emergency Contact List43

Complications.....43

Recipes47

Lactation Guideline50



First 48 Hours

The first 48 hours are a critical time for your brood and her puppies. The puppies are unable to control their body temperature and are physically very fragile. Even the most experienced brood is learning how to handle her puppies and settling herself into her role as mom. Over the next few days, various hormones will kick in that will guide your brood's maternal behavior.

Sometimes this happens immediately after giving birth, other times it takes a couple of days. Allow your brood time to bond with her puppies, unless you must be in the whelping box with her and her pups, avoid it for the first 48 hours. Watch and observe from a chair, a bed etc. Make sure you are available to help the new mom if she seems overwhelmed or is not able to figure out how to lay down without laying on her puppies. Softly encourage her to clean her puppies and tell her how good she is doing. You may need to remind your brood to go outside and go potty, you should do this twice a day, using a leash if she refuses to get up. This is the perfect opportunity for you to clean the whelping box. It is very important to keep the whelping box as clean as possible.

During the first two days do not leave your brood alone with her litter for long periods of time; you or someone else needs to sleep next to the whelping box at night and remain within ear shot during the day. If you must leave for any reason, let your Breeding Coordinator know so you both can try to figure out a puppy sitter from among your responsible family and friends. After all the work you and your brood have put into this litter, you don't want to lose one in the early days if you can help it.

First Week (Days 0 – 7)

Your puppies spend all day sleeping and eating, most of that time is spent sleeping. Puppies at this age are in what is called active sleep with constant twitching and jerking. If your puppies are not having active sleep, there may be something wrong with them. They should have clean but sealed eyes and smooth bodies. Expect to hear contented cooing from the puppies as they nurse but should be quiet most of the time. By day 3 their umbilical cord should shrivel up and fall off. Enjoy sitting and watching your puppies as much as you can this week, their mom should be doing most of the work.

Brood Care Overview

- Check mammary glands twice daily for signs of swelling, hardness, pus, or excessive heat.
- Continue to take her temperature morning and night making sure she doesn't develop a fever.
- Be sure your brood is nursing on both sides.
- Keep an eye on vaginal discharge for signs of infection.

- Make sure brood eats, drinks, and relieves herself. You may have to physically take her outside.
- Continue Omega 3 supplement.
- Increase her food according to table below.
- Add probiotics, such as Benebac or Fortiflora, to her food daily.

Brood Care

This week your brood should be settling into motherhood. She should be spending most of her time with her pups. Cleaning, nuzzling, and nursing them. This is critical for the pup's health and long term neurological and physical development. If your brood is not showing any signs of aggression towards her pups do everything you can to keep her and her pups together. If she is showing any aggression towards her puppies contact your Breeding Coordinator immediately.

Food, Water, and Stool. Continue giving your brood her omega 3 supplements but stop giving her folic acid, add a high-quality probiotic. It is very important to not overfeed your brood. Giving her more food than she needs may cause her to produce more milk than the pups can drink and predispose her to mastitis, as well as causing diarrhea in her puppies. Gradually increase her food while monitoring her condition and the puppy stools. **By day three** add a mid-day meal (3 total feedings/day) for an average size litter, add a mid-day meal and bedtime meal (4 total feedings/day) for a large litter so that her breakfast and dinner meals are not too large. Soft stools are not unusual at this time but should gradually become more formed as the week progresses. Cowpie stools in both the brood and her pups is usually a sign of overfeeding. However, whelping, eating placentas, and increased food volume will often cause broods to have soft stools for weeks. She should not be asking to go out every few hours or having accidents in the house. If you aren't seeing an improvement in her stools after 3-4 days try the following:

- Add canned, stewed, or dehydrated pumpkin to her food. (Get pumpkin with no sugar added.)
- Add boiled WHITE (not brown) rice to her meals.
- Add a few tablespoons to ½ cup of cooked (not instant) oatmeal, organic, if possible, to her meals.
- Give her kaolin-pectin product. Do NOT give her any other over-the counter medication without confirming its safety in lactating broods.

Sometimes, a brood will go off her food and water. It is okay to offer her delicacies this week. It is important for your brood to get nutrients so she can produce milk and recover properly. Some females simply want their meals warmed up, while others require a bit of experimenting.

LITTER SIZE (#PUPS/LITTER)	AMOUNT BY DAY 3
Small – 6 or less	10% more per pup of maintenance
Average 6 to 8	200% (2x more) more than maintenance
Large – 9 or more	250% (2 ½x more) more than maintenance

Here are some ideas:

- Canned or frozen green tripe
- Eggs (raw, cooked, scrambled, boiled)
- Fresh, canned, or bottled fish (tuna, salmon, sardines, herring)
- Canned dog/cat food
- Baby food (meat or poultry)
- Chicken hearts, livers, or gizzards
- Mother's Pudding – see recipe section at the end of this manual
- Liver water – see recipe section at the end of this manual
- Chicken, beef, or lamb – (be sure to increase her calcium if she is only eating meat)
- Bacon, ham, or liverwurst
- Cheese or Yogurt, ideally goat's milk

Some broods with newborn puppies are not interested in drinking water or will not leave their whelping box to do so. To encourage her to drink, place the water near the whelping box, but not in the whelping box (unless you are supervising, puppies can find their way into a water bowl and drown even at this young age). If she is still not interested in drinking you can add small amounts of low-sodium broth, or vanilla ice cream to her water.

Monitoring Your Brood

It is very important to monitor your brood's behavior, health, and physical condition to ensure everything is okay. Look for signs of malaise, disinterest, aggression, and overheating, as well as keeping tabs on her temperature, stools, urination, and hydration.

Take your brood's body temperature twice a day for the first 2-3 days this week, recording the results. Expect her temperature to remain well above 100.5° F to a high of 102.9° F. **If her temperature reaches 103° F contact your Breeding Coordinator immediately and be ready to take her to the vet.** A raised temperature can be a sign of infection, mastitis, metritis, or eclampsia. (See the complications section at the end of this manual for more information.)

If your brood seems anxious and cannot settle with her pups, is digging in the whelping box, or moving her puppies make sure her area is quiet, and she is not getting disturbed. She needs to feel safe and secure. Help her feel safer/balanced by doing some, or all of these things:

- ensuring she can easily see the door to the room from where she normally lies in the whelping box.
- keep other dogs far from the whelping room if they worry her.
- close the door to the room the whelping box is in.
- unplug your doorbell (and phone if it makes her react).
- play a radio, TV, or white-noise machine to block out sounds from outside the room.
- give her L-theanine, a calming amino acid.

- put an Adaptil collar on her. These collars release a pheromone (similar to an odor that is chemically identical to that released by dams when they nurse their puppies). As a result, it is very calming to dogs.
- make a den – put a table over or put an ex-pen around the whelping box, leaving the front open. Drape sheets/blankets over the pen securing them to the pen with clips. Simply fold the sheet/blanket back when you need to get into the box.
- calcium can work quickly to rebalance your broods mental state, so do not hesitate to give her some anytime she is acting strange. You may also supplement her meals with oral calcium to head off the strange behavior. If she is acting calmly and caring for her puppies, you do not need to regularly supplement her. (See supplementing section at the end of this manual for more information on calcium.)



Monitor your broods' breasts three to four times a day. Check for heat, redness, or hardness. **Immediately call your Breeding Coordinator** if you notice any of these and start using warm compresses. (See complications section at the end of this manual.)

Your brood should be nursing lying down but may sometimes sit up. When she is lying down make sure she is lying on her side as to expose all of her nipples to the puppies. If she does not, encourage her to lay on both sides and help her expose her lower nipples. If she is having a hard time with this stay with her and gently pet her while in that position. When you see her do this without your assistance, praise her quietly.

If your brood doesn't seem to be producing enough milk you can add mothers' pudding to her meals (see recipe section at the end of this manual).

Most broods will have some vaginal discharge this week. This is normal, her uterus is cleaning and repairing itself from the whelping. This healing can take many weeks, even a few months depending on the litter size. Normal discharge can be pink, red, brown, green, or black. There may be a lot, or a little. **If your brood appears to be hemorrhaging, acts ill, has a fever, if the discharge has a foul smell, or has pus in it call your Breeding Coordinator immediately and prepare to go to the vet.**

Environment

On day 5 this week add one or two safe, soft, large toys. Rotate these toys daily so you can be sure they are clean. You may add rolled towels, or blankets between the bedding to add "hills" and "valleys" to the terrain. Puppies should be up on all fours some of the time now so these changes in elevation push their brains and bodies to develop.



Room Temperature. Room temperature for a healthy litter should be kept in the high 60's to low 70's. Keep an eye on your brood and the puppies, they will let you know when the temperature needs to be changed. Keeping your puppies warm, dry, and away from drafts is essential. During their first week, puppies are poikilothermic, meaning their body temperature changes with the environment. Neonate puppies normal body temperature is 95° F to 98° F. Place a thermometer in the whelping box, so you know what the temperature is and monitor it closely. Quietly sleeping puppies are comfortable, those that are crying relentlessly are usually too hot, or too cold.

Comfortable puppies form a loose pig pile, where they are touching each other most of the time. A loose puppy pile is a happy puppy pile. If they are closely piled on top of each other, they could be too cold, and if they are spread far away from each other they could be too hot. Puppies at this age cannot regulate their own temperature, they do not pant so you must watch their behavior to determine if they are comfortable.

If the puppies act like they are cold, drape the box with a sheet to help keep the warmth in and place all the puppies on their heating pad. **A heating pad should always be available to the puppies.** Place the heating pad to one side of their whelping box so the pups and their mother can easily move on and off it. If they are too hot turn the room temperature down if this doesn't seem to work, place a cooling pad in the whelping box so puppies can easily get on and off the pad. Let your brood and her puppies tell you if the temperature is correct.

Hygiene. Newborn puppies have little to no immunity so hygiene is essential. All shoes should be kept outside the whelping room. If you need to wear house shoes make sure they are completely clean and do not go outside the whelping room. Before handling the puppies wash your hands and arms with soap and warm water. *Everything the puppies touch needs to be cleaned twice a day this week.* Cleaning whelping boxes and rooms is a five-step process.

1. Place the puppies in their warming box (a laundry basket, a box, or a Rubbermaid tub with a towel or blanket and a heating pad). This is a great time to weigh, inspect, and perform ENS on each puppy before you put it in the warming box. This is also a great time to have someone take your brood outside to go potty.
2. Clean the pen with towels or paper towels, removing all waste – liquid and solids such as vaginal discharge, urine, and feces. Remove all bedding and toys to be laundered.
3. Disinfect the whelping box using a product such as Rescue, or Pure Green 24 (read and follow product directions very carefully, allowing them to sit for the appropriate amount of time and letting them air dry.) and sanitize the bedding and toys.
4. Lay down clean bedding and toys. Re settle the pups in their box.
5. Launder the soiled linens and toys using a mild detergent with hydrogen peroxide, or *chlorine free* bleach and hot water.

Don't forget to clean your entire whelping room daily using the same process as above but add sweeping/vacuuming to the list.

Bedding and Traction. One of the most important decisions is what bedding to use for your pups. Bedding should be soft, safe, and hygienic. It should provide traction for the puppies and be light in weight and easily laundered without damaging your washer and dryer. Use light colored reusable potty pads, light towels, or blankets. Make sure whatever you are using can wick moisture away from the puppies and is not holding the moisture at the top. Use white or light-colored bedding as often as you can so you can easily see all discharge from your brood and her puppies. Light colored bedding enables you to spot and identify problems quickly. Use bedding that has good traction for the puppies or use rug gripper over the top of the bedding. Slipping will have detrimental effect on the puppy's orthopedic development increasing the risk of joint problems over the puppy's lifetime.



Puppy Care Overview

- Do not leave the puppies completely alone with their brood for the first 14 days. Always be within earshot of the whelping box.
- Document weight daily - try to do this at roughly the same time daily, even twice daily. (Chart provided.)
- Solo nursing sessions for any puppy that is not gaining weight like the others.
- There is no such thing as too much information – if you think it is worth noting please do! Puppies are innately driven to perform two basic functions: nursing and sleeping. Although the puppies do not display a tremendous variety of behaviors at this time, through observations you will note differences between puppies with respect to HOW they carry out these few simple behaviors (determination, rapidity, success, etc.)
- Examine puppies daily. Check umbilical cord for signs of bleeding or infection.
- Make sure collar is not tight.
- Trim nails every 3 days with cat nail clippers or human nail clippers making sure to take off just the tip of the nail.
- **Begin early neural stimulation, and early scent introduction on day 3.** (See instructions below.)
- Touch and stroke puppies as often as your brood will allow.
- Daily cuddle sessions for each puppy if your brood is comfortable with you holding them. (See handling procedures below.)

Puppy Care

As your brood learns to become a mother during these early days, do not leave her alone with the puppies if you can avoid it. The puppies are blind and barely mobile and can die very quickly if their mother lies on them. In addition, puppies that crawl too far from their mom can get chilled and lose the ability to find their way back to their siblings and their mother for warmth. Do not leave the puppies and brood alone for extended periods until the puppies' eyes open and they can get away from their mother if they need to. Talk with your Breeding Coordinator about the appropriate people to take shifts so that you can get some sleep.



While you are hovering over your litter, do not be too quick to solve the puppies' problems. The whelping box is a great example of survival of the fittest. The struggles that pups undergo to nurse are key to their mental and physical development. Rush to their aid if their mother lays on them, but if they stray too far from their mom and the rest of the litter, do not just pick them up and put them back. Instead, watch and guide them as they crawl back. These early problem-solving and stress episodes are important for a puppy's neural development. Help the little pups find a nipple but still allow them to struggle with their siblings to stay on. Other than these rescues, the puppies will need very little care from you if your brood is doing her job. She will be stimulating them to urinate and defecate, cleaning them, keeping them warm and feeding them. It is normal for a canine mother to roll her puppies about, tumbling them head over heels. Do not be alarmed, this does not injure the puppies, even if they squeak in protest. This rough handling is an important part of puppy development, teaching them to right themselves, introducing mild stress into their lives, and awakening their nervous system.

Your puppies shouldn't be consistently crying. It may be a minor problem, such as not being able to find their way back to their mom, but it could be something more serious such as being squished by their mom or getting chilled. Other causes are having gas, being too hot, or being ill. Examine the puppy to see if all appears well, its belly isn't bloated, and its mouth and limbs seem to be working fine. If the pup won't stop crying within minutes, start looking for another cause.

Monitoring your Puppies and Their Toenails. Check the collars and weigh your puppies one to two times a day at roughly the same time. A gain of 1oz a day is ideal for a healthy Labrador puppy. Don't be alarmed if one or all of your puppies do not gain, or even lose some weight in the first 24 hours. If you have a large litter, you may see a large disparity between the largest and smallest puppies. If your pups are not gaining well, try to determine the problem. It could be a problem with your brood's milk supply, the amount of time she is spending with the puppies, or a problem with the puppies themselves. If there is a wide range in weights amongst your puppies help the smallest puppies out. Put the smallest puppy(s) on the back nipples and move the larger puppies about six inches away from their mom so they must expend some energy to find a nipple. The smallest puppies can get some solo, or small group nursing time. Put



the larger puppies in their warming box and help the smallest puppies nurse.

Toenails. By the third day it is time to clip your puppies' toenails. Puppies are born with well-developed toenails that can scratch their mom and littermates. Wait until the puppies are full from nursing, hold them firmly on your lap with their bellies down or tilted up just slightly. Move quickly clipping just the very end of each nail. Don't forget the dew claw! Get in the habit of clipping their toenails every three days to keep them from scratching their mother and avoiding mastitis.

Fading, Weak and Sick Puppies. You should be monitoring your pups regularly. Anytime you have a puppy that is not thriving check them over for problems and **call your Breeding Coordinator ASAP.**

Puppies that aren't thriving:

- Not gaining weight.
- Not nursing continuously.
- Cry a lot or continuously.
- Not moving around.
- Rattling in their chest.
- Limp.
- Have purple abdomen or pads.
- Have a blue cast, tongue, and nose.
- Have red-currant-jelly poop.

Fading puppy syndrome is when a seemingly healthy puppy starts to fade. It is very frustrating and hard to deal with. Here is a video to watch about a fading puppy that was saved:

<https://slideplayer.com/slide/1664831/>

Puppy Cleaning, Stimulating and Poop. Your brood should be cleaning and stimulating her puppies. If she is not, try upping her calcium intake. If she continues to avoid licking her puppies or cleaning up the urine and feces, try wiping some of it on her forelegs. Dogs are usually very intent on keeping themselves clean so will readily clean their legs. That process will often make them comfortable licking pee and poop, which then transitions to the puppies. Calmly praise her if she does this. If your brood is still not cleaning her pups you will need to stimulate them to urinate and defecate until they are able to on their own. They need to be stimulated at least 5 to 6 times a day by wiping their genitals and anuses with a warmed damp cotton ball, or soft towel, use a new one for each puppy. Monitor the color of their urine to see if you need to do



this more often. If the urine is very dark, or you see feces in the box increase the frequency you are cleaning them.

If your brood is cleaning the puppies as she should be, you should rarely see their stools in the whelping box. When you do see them, they should be dry, yellow, and textured with visible larger pieces that look like seeds embedded in them.

Diarrhea and Dehydration. If your puppies develop diarrhea, you must tackle it aggressively. It is very easy for neonates to get seriously dehydrated. Their rear end and tails should be clean, with no dripping or dried-on feces. If there are dried feces that your brood has been unable to clean off, use warm water and a soft towel or cotton ball to gently scrub it off. Dry the puppy well after cleanup before returning it to the whelping box. Monitor your pup's hydration in two ways:

1. Tap your finger on their gums. If the gums feel sticky, the pup is dehydrated. If they are smooth and damp, the pup is fine.
2. Use a cotton ball to stimulate urination. Since pups this age have minimal kidney function, their urine should be almost colorless. If the urine is visibly yellow or darker, the pup is dehydrated.

If your puppy is only slightly dehydrated, you can try to have it nurse on their mom, or give a small amount of Pedialyte, use a syringe, and just give 1 drop at a time making sure the puppy is swallowing before giving more. At this stage, diarrhea can be caused by several issues. Here are some steps you should take depending on the cause.

1. The first step, if any pup has diarrhea is to assess its health by checking for dehydration and taking its body temperature. Reminder - neonate pups have lower body temperature than adults so if theirs is above 99°F it indicates the pup is overheated or has a fever. If the pup has a temperature of 97°F or lower this indicates crashing and needs immediate warming. Pups in both cases are in danger and need aggressive treatment. **Contact your Breeding Coordinator immediately in either case.**
2. No matter the cause of the diarrhea, give any affected puppy(s) a probiotic. Use paste probiotic, like Benebac or Provable, according to the manufacturer's directions. Alternatively, mix 1 envelope of Fortiflora in 1/3rd cup water and give about 0.25 ml per pound of bodyweight per day, giving the pup one drop at a time on its tongue, ensuring that it swallows before giving the next. *Always take note when treating a puppy for diarrhea, remember, the more you record, the better.*

Common Causes of Diarrhea

- Overfeeding your brood. If your brood is overeating, the pups will often develop diarrhea. During the first week, broods need far less food than they will in the coming weeks, unless they are extremely out of condition. Start cutting back her food for a day to see if that helps.
- Inadequate carbohydrates in the brood's diet. Canine milk is moderately high in carbohydrates. If mom isn't getting enough carbs, the pups may develop diarrhea. Add cooked oatmeal to her diet (1 tablespoon per 10 pounds of bodyweight) to see if that helps. (Contact your Breeding Coordinator before trying this.).

- Changes in diet. Sometimes changes in the brood's diet can cause diarrhea in her puppies. If you make a change that causes loose stools, return to the previous diet, and stabilize her puppies before making a more gradual change to their mom's diet.
- Immature gut bacteria. Pups get their microbiome from their mom during and after birth. The primary source of good bacteria is your brood's vaginal discharge so don't keep her too clean and let the pups wander around her rear.
- Infections. Newborn pups are vulnerable to both viral and bacterial infections, which can range from mild to deadly. Monitor pups with diarrhea closely, looking for fever and reddening of the belly, which can indicate septicemia, an often-fatal systemic infection. If your pup has diarrhea for more than 12 hours, talk to your Breeding Coordinator and your vet about giving you liquid amoxicillin or clavamox.

Constipation, Gas and White Stools. Every once in a while, a puppy gets constipated. It is more common in puppies that are fed milk replacers. Constipation can be dangerous in puppies because it usually leads to stress and loss of appetite. You might notice very hard stools, but often mom will clean it up before you see it. Look for signs of a puppy straining, with a bloated belly, crying and refusing to nurse. Here are some ideas to help resolve constipation:

- Milk of Magnesia – put a dab on puppies' tongue 5 to 6 times a day or add to the puppy's formula if it is being supplemented.
- Hold the puppy's rear end under warm, running water and gently stroking the anus with a warm cotton ball.
- Karo or Maple syrup – dab a sugary product on the puppies' tongue 5 to 6 times daily until resolved.
- Plain Yogurt, live-culture – dab a small amount on puppies' tongue 5 to 6 times daily until resolved.
- Warm-water enema – *Contact your Breeding Coordinator before doing this.* Here is a good video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BK1FShovQt4>

Once the constipation has resolved, make sure you are giving the puppy a good quality probiotic daily. Regardless of the consistency of the pup's stools, they should be yellow in color. White stools can mean the puppies are overeating or are septic. **If you notice white stools, contact your Breeding Coordinator immediately.**

Puppies will get **gas** from drinking too quickly, as a reaction to their mom's milk or when being supplemented. Supplemented or bottle-fed puppies develop gas more often than nursing puppies. If you are bottle feeding, try burping them after feeding. Gassy puppies can be soothed with human baby gas drops containing simethicone. Give a drop at a time and ensure the puppy swallows before giving more.

Body Temperature. If a puppy is crying, lethargic or weak take its temperature using a rectal thermometer. 99° F or higher likely means the puppy is overheated or has a fever. Determine the puppy is not overheated from its environment. If the puppy is overheated from its environment, make the proper adjustments (refer to Environment section). If you are positive, it isn't environmental, contact your Breeding Coordinator and call the vet for antibiotics. One-week old puppies are very fragile so infections can be very dangerous and Amoxicillin or Clavamox drops can be effective against unspecified infections. 97° F and below could mean the puppy is

chilled or is crashing. **Do NOT feed a puppy with a low body temperature.** If your puppy has a low body temperature do not try to get the puppy to nurse or try to tube feed it. A puppy with a low body temperature will not be able to properly digest its food. The most important thing to do is to warm this puppy. Place the puppy directly onto its heating pad. Try to stimulate the puppy by stroking the hair on its back against the grain. When the puppy starts to respond you can give it liver water, or a 5% glucose solution one drop at a time (see recipe section at the end of this manual).

Early Neural Stimulation. This is only to be performed if everything is going well. If there are outside stressors (stressful birth, dam not mothering properly, sickly puppies etc.) then do a modified version of ENS called SMS (Simulated Maternal Stimulation). Talk with your Breeding Coordinator about what exercise(s) should be performed on your litter.

The “Bio Sensor” or “Super Dog” Program was developed by the US Army to produce puppies that are well adjusted and confident in new environments. As future Assistance Dogs these exercises are perfect for your litter. It is thought to stimulate the neurological development and the endocrine system in puppies. The exercises are done once a day, days 3 – 16 inclusive. They can be performed in any order. Complete all five exercises with one puppy before beginning with the next. This YouTube video shows the exercises being performed:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGF2AsYu7_w

1. **Tactile stimulation:** Rub a Q-tip over the pads and between the toes to simulate a tickling sensation. It is not necessary to see the pup experiencing a ticklish sensation. One foot is enough. 3-5 seconds.
2. **Head held erect:** Using both hands, the puppy is held perpendicular to the ground (straight up) so that its head is directly above its tail. Hold for 3 – 5 seconds.
3. **Head pointed down:** Hold the puppy firmly between your palms and turn upside down so the head is towards the ground. Hold for 3 – 5 seconds.
4. **Supine position:** Cradle the puppy on its back in your palms. The puppy may sleep, struggle, or relax. Hold for 3 -5 seconds.
5. **Thermal stimulation:** Use a damp towel that has been cooled in a refrigerator for at least five minutes. Place the pup on the towel, feet down. Do not restrain it from moving. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds.



Simulated Maternal Stimulation. If puppies had a stressful birth or you have a brood who is a poor mother, full ENS is unnecessary. The puppies are already stressed and do not need any stressors added. In this situation you can focus on tactile stimulation that would simulate maternal care. Long firm strokes on their body with your hand, or a soft brush to simulate licking. Use a warm wet cotton ball or towel on their anogenital regions.

Handling Procedures. Touching and stroking the puppies as often as the brood will permit is vital to the puppy's development into a well-balanced assistance dog. Studies have shown that

puppies who are touched and stroked as neonates grow to enjoy and seek out human interaction more than those who have had minimal to no human interaction. If your brood will allow, hold each puppy individually daily. Do this in sight of the brood, or when she goes out for potty breaks. Avoid lifting a puppy above their mother's eye level, this can be very stressful for her.

Use gentle soothing strokes which will help relax and soothe the puppies. If for any reason you feel you are stressing a puppy or the brood, stop touching and stroking the puppies and try to figure out what is going on. Your brood may be protective of her puppies if she is wait until she is out on potty breaks to handle the puppies.

Development of the Puppies

- 90% of time spent sleeping.
- 10% of time spent eating.
- Cannot regulate their own body temperature. Whelping box must be heated by heating pad. Keep the room at a comfortable temperature for mommy dog.
- Instinctive reflexes only; crawl, seek warmth, nurse.
- They can right themselves if placed on their backs.
- Need stimulation for urination and defecation.
- Rapid development of central nervous system.
- May lose up to 10% of weight after birth but should start regaining within the first 48 hours.
- Lab puppies should gain 1 – 2 oz's per day, on average.
- Weight should double by end of first week.
- Body temperature of 95° F to 99° F.

Second Week (Days 8 – 14)

Neonatal period ends when eyes start to open. It is very important to avoid bright lights when you notice the first puppy's eyes opening (record when you notice each puppies' eyes opening). By two weeks old it is imperative that you are touching and handling each puppy daily. If your dam is uncomfortable with this at this point it is okay to crate her, only if she does not become hysterical or a danger to herself, humans, or the puppies. **If this is the case let the Breeding Coordinator know ASAP.**

Brood Care Overview

- Check breasts daily for signs of swelling, hardness, pus, or excessive heat.
- Monitor for appetite loss or lethargy.
- Be sure your brood is nursing on both sides.

- Keep an eye on vaginal discharge for signs of infection.
- Make sure brood eats, drinks, and relieves herself. You may have to physically take her outside.
- Keep her calm and in with her puppies as much as possible this week. No exercise or rough housing.
- Feed the same as last week only increasing/decreasing according to puppy weight gain and her condition.
- Keep her toenails short.

Brood Care

Your main job this week is to take care of your brood. Your brood should feel safe and secure and be relatively settled in the whelping room. She should be feeding and cleaning the puppies, so your job is to keep her and her whelping box clean, keep her well-rested, and well fed. Your brood may be getting slightly bored this week; however, her focus and energy needs to go towards her puppies and producing milk. No exercise other than walking about the yard. Do not play fetch, tug, or train her, no matter what she says. Instead, spend time massaging her, grooming her, and telling her what an amazing job she is doing with her puppies. The risks of infection and damage to her mammary glands are too great this week. Your brood may vigorously clean her puppies, annoying them and making them cry. Don't worry! This is beneficial to the pups so do not interfere unless she is being aggressive.



If her temperature was normal last week, and she has a normal appetite you do not need to continue taking her temperature unless you notice her go off her food or become lethargic.

Feeding and Supplementing. Continue feeding your brood as you were last week. Keep in mind how important it is to not overfeed your brood. Overfeeding can cause diarrhea in her and her puppies. You must balance feeding her enough to nurse her puppies adequately and to maintain her own body condition. If you have a normal to large sized litter, the demands being placed on her body are growing significantly.

If you notice any unusual behaviors from your brood this week, supplement her with calcium (see supplement section at end of manual). These behaviors can be anything from burying or moving her puppies, digging in her bedding, obsessing over her puppies with continuous licking, whining/crying, leaving her whelping box to go into small spaces like closets or crates to more serious behavior like aggression towards you or the puppies.

Vaginal Discharge, Breast Health, and Diarrhea. Vaginal discharge may be pink or red at this stage, it should no longer be green or black. She may have a lot, or a little. This is not abnormal

as her uterus is still cleaning and repairing itself from whelping. **If your brood appears to be hemorrhaging, acts ill, has a fever, if the discharge has a foul smell, or has pus in it call your Breeding Coordinator immediately and prepare to go to the vet.**

Remember to check your broods' breasts several times daily. Check for heat or redness, and hardness. If you notice any of these **call your Breeding Coordinator immediately** (see complications at end of manual).

Diarrhea is still common at this point and is usually the result of your brood eating placentas during whelping. It can be caused by overfeeding, bacterial overgrowth or infection so if it is not clearing up by this week call your Breeding Coordinator and see the section in week one on diarrhea.

Environment

Cleanliness and hygiene are still very important, and you should be keeping up with the cleaning schedule that was set last week.

Puppies have some control over their body temperature, so you do not need to be as concerned about heating or cooling the room they are in. They will not have adult control over their body temperature until they are about 4 weeks old so be sure there are no drafts, and they have access to an outside heating/cooling source.

Their environment should stay the same this week, but as they become larger and more mobile you should make a few simple changes to stimulate their little brains. It is even more important this week to make sure your puppies have adequate traction. If they are very mobile and urinating on their own, you will be introducing them to potty training.

Toys and Challenges. This week add more clean, soft safe toys to your whelping box, remembering to rotate them once or twice a day. Begin to add safe items with different textures such as:

- Rolled towels or blankets under their bedding. Create small valleys and hills for them to climb over.
- Different flooring items like bathroom tiles, rubber mats, vinyl flooring etc.
- Smooth rubber, canvas, soft plastic objects.
- Egg-crate foam mattress topper under their bedding.

These are just some ideas, get creative! Just make sure the items are safe for mom and puppies and you rotate them regularly.

Puppy Care Overview

- Rotate clean, large, soft toys for the puppies to explore during the day. Take all toys out every evening.
- Add different textured items daily.
- Keep environment clean and safe.
- Trim nails every 3 days.
- Weigh and record every 24 hours.
- At night: low light.
- Watch for the first puppy to urinate on their own, start potty training protocol.
- Continue ENS/SMS.
- Remember to keep notes of everything.
- Bedding: provides traction, wicks moisture, does not allow puppies to get under.
- Check collars daily.
- Handle and touch each puppy daily.

Puppy Care

This is an exciting week! Your puppies still spend most of their time alternating between sleeping and eating and continue twitching and jerking in their “active sleep”. However, when they are awake, they are getting more active. They are getting increasingly more mobile and can move forward but cannot move backwards yet. You may find them stuck in corners and can help guide them to “safety”. Some of your puppies might be standing on all fours and attempting to walk. Between days 9 and 14 their eyes should start to open; however, they will not be able to see well for a few more weeks. You will notice the puppies urinating on their own, when you see this, it is time to set up the whelping box with a designated sleeping area and start the potty-training process. Your brood may be spending less time with her pups this week, and that is okay! You should not confine her to the whelping box, but you should encourage her to stay in the whelping room and the area around the whelping box. Make sure you are checking the puppies’ weight daily to ensure weight gain.

Injuries and Accidents. As your puppies get more mobile it is easier for them to get themselves into trouble. At this age they have no fear and can easily wiggle their way out of your hands or get under foot unexpectedly. They are able climb into their mother’s water bucket so always keep the bucket hung out of the puppies’ reach, or out of the whelping box all together.

Check the puppies’ collars daily to make sure they are not too tight or causing any cuts or sores. Keep the puppies bedding dry to reduce the risk of rashes. Make sure your puppies and their mom have short, manicured toenails. It is very easy for a puppy to scratch their mom or one of their siblings, possibly causing infection. If your broods’ nails are long and unkempt it is easier for her to cause harm to one of her puppies.

Fading, Weak and Sick Puppies. You should be monitoring your pups regularly. Anytime you have a puppy that is not thriving check them over for problems and **call your Breeding Coordinator ASAP**. If you have a weak puppy giving them a kick start may help. Put a drop of Karo Syrup, Frosting or Maple Syrup on the puppy's tongue. Alternatively, you can use liver-water, NaturesMate by Breeders Choice, or homemade 5% Glucose Solution (see recipe section at the end of this manual for this and liver water).

Weak puppies should have solo nursing time with mom several times a day, so they do not need to fight as much for their food. If this doesn't seem to be helping you may need to supplement with bottle or tube feeding. (See supplemental feeding section at the end of this manual).

Development of the Puppies

- Eyes should start to open between days 10 and 12.
- Ears should open around days 13 – 17.
- Begin standing/walking if they haven't already done so.
- Normal body temperature of 97F to 100F.

Potty Training. Most Labrador puppies can start the potty-training process as early as 10 days old. It is important to remember that potty training a puppy at this age is not the same as house training a puppy, but it is a vital foundation to their house-training process. It is also important to note that every litter is not the same. You need to be able and willing to adapt your potty-training plan to the litter/situation you have today.

If a litter of puppies is allowed to go potty wherever they want, they have a much harder time learning to go in specific areas, are generally much messier and the puppy area is more odorous. If they are taught at a very young age to hold it and go to a certain area to relieve themselves, they will have a much easier time with house training, your cleanup will be much more enjoyable, and your puppies will learn muscle control to be able to hold it for longer. They may even go to their raiser homes being able to hold it through the night. If you've ever had an 8-week-old puppy this is a blessing!

When your puppies are moved into their larger area think about how you want it to be set up. Their potty area needs to stay in one spot, do not move it around the pen, and you do not want them running through their potty area to get to the door. **When you start potty training your puppies remember that their potty area smells like a potty area, and their play/sleeping area does not. It is your job to make sure this is happening.** Know that you may never get to 100% success with puppy pee, but you should see great success with puppy poop.

Getting Started. As soon as you notice the first puppy urinate on its own it is time to start the potty-training process. A puppy's instincts are not about cleanliness, their instinct is simply to move away from the area they are sleeping in to urinate and defecate. They know they have

moved away from their sleeping area by the change in flooring texture. The first step to potty-training is creating a “nest” area, and a potty area in their whelping box.

- After thoroughly cleaning your whelping box set up a sleeping area using blankets to one side of your whelping box with access to the heating pad (as the puppies become more mobile you can use crate pads or dog beds, but do not use these too early, if a puppy goes under the bed and their mom does not see them, she may lay on them).
- Place pee pads directly in front of the sleeping area and sprinkle some of the pellet litter you will be using on the pee pads (we recommend Second Nature dog litter, unscented paper pellet cat litter such as Yesterday's News, or pellet stall bedding). Use enough litter so the puppies notice the difference in texture and can start getting used to the smell.
- The earlier you introduce the pellets the least likely your puppies will start to eat the pellets. Try to introduce the pellets before weaning.

Moving into a Larger Pen. Size and placement of the potty area matters. A good rule of thumb is that a puppy can move no more than 1 foot for every week of age (i.e., 2 weeks of age, potty area must be within 2 feet, 3 weeks – 3 feet etc.). This distance decreases if your puppies are excited, if there are items in their way, and if the room is dark. When the puppies first move out of their whelping box into their puppy pen their potty area needs to be 1/2 –2/3 of their pen. The rim needs to be short enough that your puppies can easily enter the potty area.

- Using the potty box consistently will earn the puppies more play space. If they are not consistent at all do not expand their pen.
- When the puppies are 70-80% successful at peeing in their potty area expand their pen.
- If the puppies are struggling, make their pen smaller, especially at night.
- When you are in the puppy pen with the puppies you can expand the area. Only if you can help them succeed in getting to their potty area. Before you leave the pen shrink it back to where they were being the most successful.
- Remember that the smell of feces and urine will trigger the puppies to go. **Keep the area outside the potty area spotless and odorless (use your ammonia free disinfectant AND an enzyme killing spray such as Natures Miracle. Make sure you are using as directed on the bottle).**
- Do not clean all urine and feces out of the box every time. Clean 95% of the box and burry some urine and feces to keep the smell. When you do a full disinfecting clean of the potty area keep some of the dirty litter to sprinkle on top of the clean litter (about once a week). Never use an enzyme spray in the box.
- Scoop the potty area several times a day.
- Replace pellets that have disintegrated.
- At night pick up large objects, and toys, or move those objects to the perimeter of the pen so they do not get in the puppy's way. You may make the pen smaller at night as well.

- Sometimes you will have slow learners. Move them to the box as often as you can. And remember everyone develops differently, try not to get frustrated with these puppies.
- As your puppies grow, their feces and urine grow – therefore their play and potty area needs to grow. Remember 1 foot for every week of age.
- PRAISE your puppies for going potty in the correct area, whether that is in the potty area or outside.

Potty Training Issues

- **Eating pellets** – add a grate to the potty box. The earlier you introduce pellets the less likely your puppies are to try and eat them.
- **Digging, playing, or sleeping in the potty area** – Make sure you have more potty space than puppies, they will always want to lay or play in them. Unfortunately, you just need to be okay with this. Add more soft places for the puppies to sleep and check the room temperature to make sure it isn't too hot.
- **Puppies not getting it** - Make the pen smaller and the potty area larger. Make sure there are no obstacles in the way. Clean the pen more and the potty area less.
- **Puppies away from pen** – Make sure the puppies always have access to a potty area no matter where they are. If you have them exploring a new room in the house, have a potty box in the same room. Bring each puppy to the potty area so they know there is one in the room.

Third Week (Days 15 – 21)

In the third week, the puppies are really starting to engage with their mom, their litter mates and us. They are in what is known as the transitional period. The transitional period begins when the first puppies' eyes start to open and ends when all puppies' ears have opened.

It is important to get as much rest as you can this week. Your brood should still be doing most of the cleaning and feeding for her puppies. With improved movement the puppies can start potty training and are better able to move out of their mom's way so *as this week progresses you can begin to relax your vigilance.*

Brood Care Overview

- Check breasts daily for signs of swelling, hardness, pus, or excessive heat.
- Monitor for appetite loss or lethargy.
- Increase her food.
- Spend some time out of whelping room with her.

Brood Care

You will notice your brood spending less and less time with her puppies. If you are concerned that your brood is not spending enough time with her puppy's pay attention to their weight. If your puppies are gaining 10% or more daily your brood is with them enough and can enjoy her alone time. If your puppies are not gaining properly, it is time for some tough love. You will need to confine your brood near her puppies. If that doesn't seem to work, simply sitting in the whelping room with your brood petting and praising her while she nurses the puppies will help.

You might notice that she starts to lose weight or condition. Weeks three and four have the highest demands for milk production. Given the demands on her body, be very vigilant for signs of mastitis, eclampsia, or hypoglycemia. **If you see any signs of muscle**

weakness, disorientation, staggering, or aggression call your Breeding Coordinator and be ready to bring her into the reproductive vet.

LITTER SIZE (#PUPS/LITTER)	AMOUNT BY WEEK 3
Small – 6 or less	150% more per pup of maintenance
Average 6 to 8	250% (2½ x more) more than maintenance
Large – 9 or more	350% (3 ½ x more) more than maintenance

Feeding and Supplementing. Your brood should be getting 110%-400% of her maintenance amount based on her litter size, divided into 3-4 meals a day. Continue feeding a probiotic and omega 3 fatty acids.

As you increase the amount of food you are feeding your brood this week; she may develop diarrhea. If both she and her pups get loose stools, you're most likely feeding her too much. Cut back slightly while monitoring the puppies' weights. Adding some oatmeal or kaolin pectin to her diet may help with her loose stool.

Puppy Care Overview

- Continue letting the puppies nurse, while monitoring their weight.
- Avoid bright lights and loud noises while eyes and ears are developing.
- Start adding enrichment (toys and different obstacles) to the puppy pen. These can include soft toys (nothing that squeaks on days 20 – 22), things to crawl over, and objects with varied surfaces. Everyday household objects which are too large to swallow, have no sharp edges and can't fall on the puppies are great. Every morning add a new thing, *taking away the previous thing the evening before*. Never force the puppies to confront an object, let them take their time investigating.

- Once puppies start peeing on their own expand their nest area slightly. Puppies will only take a few steps before they must pee after waking up, so don't make their new "clean" nest area too large. Set them up for success and do not expect too much from them at this age.
- Add potty pads and pellets to one area of the whelping box.
- Once you notice the first startle response start the sound protocol: Classical music, habituation recordings/television, complete quiet, "upsetting" appliance noises.
- Weigh puppies daily – allow smaller puppies to have solo nursing time.
- Start weekly grooming sessions – brush with small soft brush, trim nails, look at teeth and ears, if you have access to a Dremel get the puppies feet used to the vibrations of the Dremel (hold the butt of the Dremel against their feet for a couple seconds).
- Day 16 – last day of neural stimulations.
- Check collars daily.

Puppy Care

Nursing is vital to the puppy's development this week. It provides all puppy nutrition, physical strength and helps with puppy coordination. As your brood progresses from lying, to sitting to standing while nursing it also helps develop many mental skills such as learning to deal with mild stressors in a positive way, problem solving, and persistence. Even if it looks tough for your puppies it is normal and vital to their growth.

Visitors. This is an important time for your puppies to be introduced to new people. To do this safely emphasize hygiene.

- Visitors are not to come after being around a lot of other dogs.
- Must wear clean, non-doggy clothes.
- Must remove shoes outside of the house.
- Must wash hands and arms before touching the puppies or your brood.

Visitors need to be quiet and respectful of your brood. She must feel comfortable with the people you are allowing near her puppies. All visitors should be sitting down when holding puppies to avoid drops and falls.

Sound Protocol. When you notice the first startle response in one of your puppies this indicates that their ears are fully developed. You may start playing different noises for them throughout the day. Classical music, pop music, dogs barking, household noises etc. Start with the sounds at a low volume and gradually increase. This will help desensitize your puppies to the noises they will hear in the world. If you are using a sound CD or sounds from the computer, make sure the direction the sounds come from changes frequently.

Environment

Cleanliness and hygiene are still very important. Continue the cleaning protocol set up on week one. You may need to add some additional cleaning this week as the puppies start going potty on their own. Always clean feces when you see it and change out bedding if you notice urine. The puppies are still too young for a full potty box but adding a few pee pads to one side of the whelping box with some of the pellets you will be using in their potty box will start them in the right direction for potty training. Change the pee pads several times a day to keep the puppies clean. (See potty training section at end of manual)

Although you will probably notice the puppies' eyes begin to open between days 8 and 12, their ability to see and hear is not fully developed until around 21 days. It is critical that as the puppies are nearing their 21st day, you are extremely careful to not create any sudden, loud sounds or bursts of bright light as these occurrences could potentially create permanent fears. This stage is referred to as the first 'critical period' or 'fear imprint period' of puppyhood. Feel free to play soft music for the puppies during this period and please, **no visitors on days 20, 21 and 22.**



Introduce clean new tactile items one item at a time. They are learning how to walk and need unobstructed space to do this.

Leaving a lot of toys in the whelping box at this age does not produce great benefits. The most productive enrichment at this age involves presenting a novel object so you get the startle/recover/curiosity/explore cycle.

Development of the Puppies

- Ability to see and hear is fully developed by the end of this week.
- Teeth begin to erupt.
- Sense of smell is fully developed by the end of this week.
- Puppies stand up and start walking.
- Defecate / urinate without stimulation.
- Start becoming aware of environment.
- Start playing with littermates.
- Will start to discriminate as to where to relieve themselves.
- May become interested in mom's food.
- Startle reflex is developed (Days 17 – 24).

Fourth Week (Days 22 - 28)

You will see the puppies becoming quite animated. They will be able to see and hear by mid-week and you should see a lot of interaction with littermates. Even though the puppies can begin to eat food, the brood should stay with them as much as possible. She will begin to discipline them, which is necessary to their development, so please do not interfere unless she is causing bodily harm, such as drawing blood or leaving marks and bruises. Growling and nipping are acceptable behaviors. Once puppies are walking fairly well you can move them to their larger enclosure. Continue introducing new novel sights, sounds, and textures. You can start carrying the puppies around the house one at a time or bring the whole group for a romp in a new safe room. **If you notice any puppies having a true fear response (shaking, retreat, cowering, anything that is more than immediate startle and recovery) discontinue and start from the beginning for introducing new sounds/experiences. Assume every puppy in the litter is in the same fear period and do this for all puppies in the litter.**

Brood Care Overview

- Check breasts daily if you notice anything out of the ordinary contact your Breeding Coordinator.
- Refer to the 'Lactation Guideline' at the end of this manual for weaning instructions pertaining to the brood.
- May go for short, leashed walks in areas that are not heavily populated with dogs and/or wild animals.
- Ensure your brood has a way to escape her puppies if she would like to.

Brood Care

Your brood will be spending less and less time with her puppies. You can start playing with her out in your yard again, and taking her for very short, leashed walks around your neighborhood. **Make sure wherever you take her is not heavily populated by other dogs, or wild animals.** If her teats are very low and hanging use a belly protector so she does not scratch or damage them. Before allowing her back in with her puppies use a washcloth on her feet and her belly.

Provide the brood with a love seat, armchair, bench or similar where she can get away from the pups if she wants to. Adult dogs that are trapped with pups may resort to growling, snapping, or worse when they have no way to escape! Let the brood decide how much time she wants to spend with the pups.

Regurgitation. Some broods will start regurgitating their meals for their puppies. This is not dangerous, unusual, or gross. It is a natural process that many animals do to feed their young. The puppies will clean up the mess and will be introduced to solid food without any work on your

part. If you do not want your brood to regurgitate for her puppies, feed her AFTER she nurses. She might eat her meals and insist she goes into the pen with her puppies but resist her request. She is being driven by her hormones to regurgitate for them but does not have to.

Puppy Care Overview

- Continue letting the puppies nurse, while monitoring their weight.
- Keep mom with them as much as possible. Things can get a little overwhelming at this age and mom will add stability.
- Give each puppy individual attention.
- Pups can start mush after Day 24 and should be started by Day 29. See '**Weaning**' at the end of this section.
- Weather dependent – start introducing puppies to the outside.
- Continue sound protocol, making sure the sounds are not always coming from the same area.
- Continue grooming sessions – brush with small soft brush, trim nails, look at teeth and ears, if you have access to a Dremel get the puppies feet used to the vibrations of the Dremel (hold the butt of the Dremel against their feet for a couple seconds).
- Check collars daily.

Puppy Care

Your puppies' coordination increases drastically this week. The puppies will run more and more but most puppies this age can only trot. They will fall a lot, which is normal, so make sure they have a safe environment to try out their growing bodies. You will see a big increase in stamina this week. Previously they would be awake for ten minutes and sleeping for sixty, they will now be awake for fifteen to twenty minutes.

If temperatures are 50 to 80° Fahrenheit and relatively dry, your puppies can be taken outside for brief outings of 5 to 15 minutes this week. If the weather cooperates and you do take them outside, watch them for excessive shivering or panting, both indicate inappropriate environmental stress. Your puppies can hold their urine and feces for short periods and are mobile enough to move into a nearby potty area. If you haven't already, introduce them to a potty box (see potty training section).

Vocalizing, Teething, and Corrections. As puppies hearing develops, they begin to vocalize more and with greater variety- barks, howls, yodels, chortles, and whines. You may hear the "lost puppy" cry more this week as they are venturing farther away from their mom and siblings. Remember to only step in and help if they seem very panicked and are not able to figure it out in a couple minutes. Your puppies will begin "demand barking" and howling. It is very important that you do not give in and rush to their aide when they are sitting at the whelping box/pen barking to be let out, or just want your attention. It is a balancing act between knowing when

your puppies really need your help because they are stuck/scared etc. and you need to rush to their aid, or if they are just bored and want your attention.

Your puppies' teeth should be erupting, or fully erupted this week but they still have very little jaw strength. They are learning how to use their mouths by chewing on each other and objects in their pen. They may get into little puppy tiffs, do not intervene except in extreme cases. This is teaching them bite inhibition and appropriate social communication.

Your brood might begin correcting her puppies, do not interfere unless she is injuring them. You might notice her correcting them while they are grabbing her ears, nose, feet, or tail, if the puppies are using their teeth during nursing, or playing too rough with siblings. It is her job to teach them bite inhibition, self-control, and manners. If the puppies are nipping, you or your clothing simply trade the inappropriate item with an appropriate toy.

Puppy Call and Visitors. At this age the puppies' ears are developed and can start learning the puppy call. This call will become their first recall command so choose it carefully. We like to use "puppy, puppy, puppy". To begin teaching this say the command every time you enter the room, every time you notice your brood entering the room, before you put their food down (when you start the weaning process), when you are calling them to go into another room (or outside).

The puppies are still gentle this week and are not using their teeth as much as they will be next week. It is a good time to introduce them to as many humans as you can. Invite people for short visits, following the hygiene protocol in previous sections. Small, well-behaved children may engage with the puppies but only if they are sitting on the floor. An adult need to place the puppies in their laps, they are not allowed to pick up a puppy on their own. Let your visitors know that if the puppies are in their "nest" area they are off limits. Your puppies need a safe place to go if they are feeling uncomfortable in a situation.

Puppy Mush and Marrow Bones. This week we introduce puppies to puppy mush once a day (see weaning section of manual), and marrow bones. We use small marrow bones to begin developing their jaw strength and start teaching them about sharing. Small beef soup bones are ideal for this purpose (*do not let your brood in the pen while bones are down*). Warm the bones to room temperature or a little warmer before giving them to the puppies. Get one more bone than puppy and give each pup a bone, leaving the extra bone in the middle of the pen. Let them chew on the bones for 10-15 minutes, they are usually tired after this and take a nap. Pick up the bones and put them in the freezer for tomorrow (remember to thaw to room temperature before giving to the puppies). While the puppies are happily chewing on their bones walk around and pet each one of them. Maybe even offer to hold their bone for them while they chew. Give them lots of praise if they are not stiffening or growling. Contact your Breeding Coordinator if you have a puppy that growls at you when you go near their bone.

Environment

Cleanliness and hygiene are still very important. Continue the cleaning protocol set up on week one. The puppies body temperature is close to that of an adult, and they can now control their body temperature. The room they are in can and should range in temperature from 65 to 75° Fahrenheit.

Puppy Pen. When every puppy 's eyes are open, and they are all up toddling around it is time to move them into a larger more complex environment. If you have wall to wall carpet, or expensive flooring you do not want a whole litter of puppies romping around on, buy a large piece of linoleum or similar and place this under their puppy pen. *Please refer to the potty-training section on how to set up the pen for potty training.* The puppy pen is best constructed out of 2 - 3 x-pens, an easy clean flooring surface (such as tile or linoleum), a potty area for the puppies to start housebreaking, a sleeping area, and some enrichment toys. Feel free to set up



the puppy pen in a new room (different from the whelping room) where the pups will have more interaction with family members and the daily routine of your household.

X-pen Configuration: Ideally, two walls (forming an L shape) of the room where the puppy pen is situated will be available to provide stability to the puppy pen. Use 2 -3 carabiners to clamp the x pens together at the ends making sure the end is not situated against a wall.

The Potty Area: This week the potty area should take up about 2/3 of the puppy pen, and the remainder of the pen will be the sleep/eat/play areas. Introduce the pups individually to the potty area at a time when you think they may be ready to use it – probably right after they eat or as soon as they wake up. If they urinate or defecate outside of the potty area, soak the urine up with a paper towel, pick up the feces and bury in the potty box to help with the scent. Always use an enzyme killing potty spray such as Natures Miracle on messes outside the potty box. (See potty training section for more on potty training).

Toys, Textures, and Obstacles. The play area should have several different textures, footing, toys, and equipment. Footing material might include rubber mats, shag carpets, tiles etc. The puppies are still unsteady on their feet and cannot see very well so you need to use soft, safe items. Make sure there are no sharp edges, holes, or hooks that a puppy might get caught or injured on. Use soft safe toys such as plush, latex or rubber toys. Look for toys that will help teach the puppies various lessons. Toys with material or various textures to stimulate their tactile sense, large tubular toys to roll or climb over. Use low boxes or stools for the puppies to climb under and over, hanging objects to teach your puppies to look up and engage. If your puppy gets scared or “stuck” in a toy monitor their attempts at solving the problems and only assist if they panic or are truly stuck. Learning to handle difficult situations and low stress is good for their developing brains.

Development of the Puppies

- Begin to eat food.
- Begin to bark, wag tails, bite, paw, bare teeth, growl and chase each other.
- Use legs well. And developing eye-mouth and eye-paw coordination.
- Developing their hearing. They still have trouble locating sounds.
- Tire easily.
- Depth perception starts – they can see large objects up to 5 feet away and smaller objects within 3 feet.
- Fine tuning their noses, learning how to find things by following scents
- Pups cannot control head and upper body enough to eat/lap before Day 24.
- Puppies will begin to chew and shake toys at Day 26.
- Body temperature is almost what their adult temperature will be (100.5 to 102° Fahrenheit).

Weaning

The age of weaning depends on the number of puppies in the litter and their general appetite. Generally, weaning starts at about 4 weeks of age but will depend on the puppies and their mom. Puppies should not be weaned until they have their teeth, for obvious reasons. However, if you have a large litter, or your brood develops mastitis or something similar weaning slightly younger is okay. Talk with your Breeding Coordinator about when to start weaning your litter.



You will need a feeding pan for each three pups (i.e., two pans for 5 or 6 pups, three pans for 7 – 9 pups, four pans for 10 or more pups) to make feeding time less frenetic for the pups.

You'll start feeding the puppies a soupy mixture made of warm water and the same kibble their mother has been eating. Pour 1½ cups of hot water over 1½ cups kibble (based on six pups – adjust accordingly for more or less pups) and let stand until the kibble has become mushy. Break the mushy kibble up some more with a fork and add enough water to make a soup. Divide equally between feeding pans. You may prepare this mixture in advance, using a little less water. Keep the mush refrigerated and add hot water right before feeding.

Separate the brood from the puppies before you feed them, or mom will probably eat their food. Give the pups about 20 minutes to eat, then remove the pans, clean the area, and return mom to the puppy pen. You may need to get some puppies started eating by dipping your finger in the mixture then placing it in their mouths. Puppies will probably not finish this first meal.

Check the puppies frequently after this first feeding for loose stool. A wet tail and wet anal area are signs of loose stool. If you do see loose stool, contact the Breeding Coordinator.

Repeat this once-a-day meal over the next 2 – 3 days, checking frequently for loose stools. Puppies will still be nursing heavily but mom may want to spend less time with them.

On day 3 or 4, increase the soupy meal to twice a day. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup in each pan of the puppy food they will be transitioned to. Pups may or may not finish their meals.

On day 4 or 5, increase the meals to three times a day, increasing the amount of puppy food compared to their mom's food, and make the mixture a little less soupy.

On day 6 or 7, omit the addition of water to the last meal, making sure the soaked kibble pieces are well broken up. If using pre-made mush, heat for approximately one minute in the microwave, making sure no part of the mush is too hot. **By this time, each puppy should be consistently eating about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of food per feeding.**

On day 8 or 9, increase the meals to 4 times a day. Continuing feeding this many meals a day, gradually stop breaking up the kibble until you are feeding soaked kibble only by the time the pups are 6 weeks old. ***Gradually increase the amount of food until pups are eating about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of food at each feeding at 6 weeks.***



At 6 weeks, ***decrease the feedings to 3 per day and increase the food amount per pup to 1 cup per feeding.*** By 6 weeks old the puppies should be eating mostly puppy food, with only a little bit of their mom's food

mixed in. Kibble should be soaked. When you can, feed the puppies in separate kennels/crates with separate bowls.

At 7 weeks, gradually start mixing dry kibble in with the soaked kibble so by the end of the week pups are eating dry kibble only.

Feed the puppies in a variety of places, in a variety of bowls. Always do the puppy call ("puppy, puppy, puppy") before you put the food down.

Always have a bucket of clean drinking water available for the pups!

The Barrier Challenge. At 5-weeks-old, do this barrier challenge game once weekly with every puppy. Using a baby gate (or some other barrier the puppy can see through) and a bowl of puppy mush, arrange the barrier so the puppy will be able to easily walk around from one side to the other. Give a puppy a taste of the puppy mush and allow him to see you place the bowl down on the other side of the barrier. Figuring out the way around the barrier enhances his problem-solving abilities and develops his capacity to think when frustrated.

Note: Once you start the weaning process, mom will clean the pups less and less. You will need to clean the whelping pen area more frequently. Now is the time to start introducing the pups to the 'bathroom' area of the puppy pen.

Fifth Week (Days 29 - 35)

From days 29 – 35 you will continue to see dramatic changes in the puppies' activity levels. This is in large part due to their newly developed auditory, visual, and motor capabilities. They will begin to trot and run, can see well enough to look up for people's faces, can hear better, their body temperature is that of an adult dog and their sharp little teeth will arrive. They are also entering a stage where they are capable of learning through their experiences with other pups, their mother, you, and their environment in general.

The development and experiences of the puppies at this point can have a lasting effect on the puppies' lifelong behavior, with many behaviors becoming *permanent*. It is critical the puppies are not separated for long periods from their mother and littermates during this time (a healthy dose of controlled solo outings is okay!) and are exposed to as many new things as you can think of.

LITTER SIZE (#PUPS/LITTER)	AMOUNT BY WEEK 5
Small – 6 or less	150% more per pup of maintenance
Average 6 to 8	250% (2 ½ x more) more than maintenance
Large – 9 or more	350% (3 ½ x more) more than maintenance

Brood Care Overview

- Check breasts daily.
- Gradually increase her exercise, make sure the areas you go are not heavily dog or wild animal populated, and remember to cover her teats if they hang too low.

Brood Care

The care for your brood is basically the same as last week. The puppies are still nursing and very demanding on your brood's body. You will be challenged to feed her enough to enable her to maintain her own body condition and to nourish the pups.

Feeding and Supplementing. If your brood's body condition is the same as it was before whelping, or if she is having a hard time keeping weight on you can pretty much feed her however much food she would like. (See lactation guide at end of manual)

Remember to feed her after she nurses to reduce or limit regurgitation this week. If this process bothers you.

Hair, everywhere! Broods typically blow their coats after having a litter. They will often lose so much hair you will see their skin. This is normal, and unavoidable. Be patient, it will stop falling out and will grow back.

Breast Checks, and Vaginal Discharge. Continue checking your broods' breasts daily to ensure there is no mastitis or sores on her nipples. If you do find sores, warm, damp washcloths can be used to comfort the areas. Do not use any topical ointments or creams since the puppies are still nursing.

Most broods will have very minimal discharge by this week, but do not be alarmed if your brood continues to have dark discharge for a few more weeks. As long as the discharge does not smell or look like blood or puss. **Contact your Breeding Coordinator immediately if it does.**

Environment

Cleanliness and hygiene are still very important. Continue the cleaning protocol set up on week one in the whelping room. Your main goals this week are potty training and developing the puppies. Try to avoid developmental opportunities that hinder or interfere with potty training. The biggest error that is made at this age is giving the puppies too much space. Remember that baby bladders are still developing and puppies this age can typically only travel 5 feet when they realize they need to go potty.

Potty Area. Your puppies should be regularly using their potty area but there will still be many misses. Usually by the end of this week they will be pooping 90 percent of the time in a litter box, but only urinating in it 65 to 70 percent of the time.

Initially you were burying most of the puppy feces in the box so the smell would draw the puppies to the area, once you see all the puppies using their potty area regularly you can completely clean the feces out of the box twice daily. Urination takes longer for the puppies to grasp so be sure that the **boxes still smell of pee and their play/sleep/eat area does not.**

If your puppies are doing well going potty in the right place, you can expand their pen during the day. Remember to praise your puppies when they are going potty in the correct area.

The pens cleanliness will tell you if you are expanding their area too quickly.

Crates. If you haven't already added them, provide a couple open crates for the puppies to start sleeping in. Make sure the crates are kept VERY clean, so your puppies do not learn that a crate is somewhere they are allowed to go potty.

Puppy Care Overview

- Continue the weaning process.
- Daily handling and grooming sessions.

- Introduce puppies to new sights, sounds and smells daily.
- Continue potty training process.
- Leave water out for the puppies to drink.
- Reduce the fluids in the puppies' food.
- Continue introducing puppies to new people, following the human hygiene protocol.
- Add open crates to pen if they aren't already there.
- Start taking puppies for short car rides.
- Practice "all four on the floor".

Puppy Care

Feeding and Supplementing. Your puppies should be getting a soft version of their mom's food. Slowly introducing them to the puppy kibble they will be on. You should begin introducing a new protein source regularly, do this by adding small amounts of a different kind of kibble with a different protein.

Feed your puppies in individual bowls this week, helping them remember to eat from their own dish by gently picking them up and placing them by their own dish. If you use the flying saucer pan place 2-3 piles of food on each saucer and try to keep the puppies at their individual spaces. Feed at least one meal in individual crates, if possible.

Try to feed the puppies in new environments, and in new containers as often as possible. Metal pie pans, ceramic bowls, paper plates, plastic containers, wooden boards, in the kitchen, outside, puppy pen, bathroom etc.

Keep water available, as they are eating more kibble their water intake will increase.

Sights, Sounds and Smells. The puppies should be exposed to auditory and visual stimuli, preferably in a controlled manner. For example, on one day you have the television on nearby, leave the radio on during the day (at a normal volume), tuning in to a different station every day, introduce the puppies to every household noise you can think of; vacuum, leaf blower, washing machine, toilet flushing, water running in sink etc.

An example of visual stimulation would be to turn a flashlight on and off, moving it around the dark room for several minutes. Taking the puppies outside for brief periods of time (weather permitting) will also provide visual, auditory, tactile, and olfactory stimulation. Change the toys and their location in the pen regularly.

Free Play and Outside Play. This is a great week for puppies to have some free play in your house. Pick a room such as the kitchen that you can puppy proof. This helps them get used to new environments, sights, and sounds. Bring multiple toys, and a potty box or two in the room, make sure each puppy knows it is there. Be prepared to do some clean up when they are out of

the room. Having a safe second space the puppies can go in while you clean their main whelping area makes cleaning much easier.

Puppies can regulate their body temperature almost as well as they can as adults. Weather dependent, they can have regular outside play time as long as you have a **private clean fenced area for them to play in**. Playtime must be supervised by their mom and you at this age, particularly if you have large predators and birds of prey in the area.

Puppies develop a strong following instinct as they get older, but this week it is not particularly strong. They will not be able to easily follow you or their mom, so this week is just about introducing them to the smells, sounds and textures of the great outdoors.

Some puppies will take to the outdoors without any problems, others will be stressed by the experience. If your puppies are whining a lot and not wanting to explore, use their mom to reinforce their bravery. Keep her on leash so you can control the puppies and let them nurse when they get outside. Your brood will model confident behavior for her puppies.

Individual Attention and New People. Puppies will start forming individual attachments at this stage so it's important to spend time individually with each pup. There should be at least two sessions per week with each pup, lasting around 10 minutes. This is a great time to introduce new people to the pups! Individual attention includes holding and petting, grooming, and 'find it' games, as well as time alone with mom in another room, or watching TV with you for a few minutes. Be careful not to over stimulate the puppy during these sessions. Shy pups may require more frequent, shorter periods of attention.

Jumping, Barking, and Mouthing. Learning not to jump, demand bark and mouth is a very hard thing for puppies. This week it is very important to start teaching them what humans expect of them. If your puppies are jumping at the puppy pen to be let out, or jumping at you for attention, ignore them until they are all either sitting or at least not jumping ("all four on the floor"). There will usually be one puppy in the group that is very persistent and will not stop jumping. In this case, pick up/give attention to the puppies that are sitting or standing calmly, or move them out of the pen to their other play area/outside ignoring the trouble maker until they calm down.

Follow the same protocol for a demand barking/screaming puppy. There will always be one puppy in the group (sometimes more) that has learned to bark when they want their food, want some attention, or would just like to be let out. It is important to ignore this behavior and not give the puppy any attention while it is doing this. Unfortunately for the other puppies, that means you do not go into the whelping area while the troublemaker is barking/screaming. Sometimes they bark/scream for an extended period, you will be able to tell if there is really an emergency and you need to go check on the puppies. Wait them out, if the puppy is quiet for enough time for you to get into the room do so as soon as possible, before they start barking again. If you

know which puppy was the culprit, take care of the other puppies before doing anything with the barker.

The puppies' teeth are coming in this week. Puppies use their teeth like toddlers use their hands, they want to explore everything. If a puppy is grabbing your hands, feet, clothing etc., swap the inappropriate item(s) for an appropriate toy. Always have toys accessible for an easy swap.

Make sure everyone who interacts with the puppies knows the rules and follows them every time.

Car Rides. This is the perfect week to start introducing the puppies to car rides. If you can, load all the puppies and their mom into crates in the car and drive around the block. If you can't fit all puppies and mom in the car do several trips, but always in groups. Studies have shown that puppies who are introduced to car rides at such an early age have less motion sickness and are able to comfortably ride in vehicles as adults. If possible, a car ride every week is great.

Scatter some treats and toys on the floor, and load more than one puppy up in each crate, being sure it is not overcrowded. For the first several trips, place a sheet or blanket over the crates. Your puppies might be too overwhelmed with the stimuli flying by outside the car. The puppies will likely bark at first. Do not respond to a barking puppy, simply ignore it. Listen to what the barking sounds like and keep an ear out for a bark that sounds like something may be seriously wrong, like a foot caught or a potty need. That bark is the only one you should respond to, but any other barking should be ignored. If puppies are barking and fussing and will not settle down, make the car cooler to see if that might help. Remember, the puppies will be covered in their crates so will get hotter faster. Keep the car colder than you usually would.

Development of the Puppies

- Group activity and mounting begins (this is normal, do not be concerned)
- Rapid growth and development are seen.

Sixth Week (Days 36 - 42)

This is a busy week! During the sixth week, the puppies will continue to receive the attention you have been providing. Continue to socialize them with adults and children, taking care to educate new visitors and supervising all interactions. You start crate training, and handling exercises, continue car rides, and take a field trip.

Brood Care Overview

- Check breasts daily.

- Continue monitoring any discharge.
- Feed her as much as she needs to maintain her condition.

Brood Care

The care for your brood is the same this week as it was last week.

Feeding and When to Wean Puppies. Even with a small litter you may be challenged to feed her enough to maintain her condition while nourishing her puppies. If she is losing weight, contact your Breeding Coordinator. Follow the lactation guide at the end of this manual.

If your brood is healthy and tolerating her puppies there is no need to keep her away from her puppies to prevent nursing. Let your brood decide when and how to wean her puppies fully. Most broods will refuse to go in the puppy pen at this age but will happily nurse her puppies outside the pen. Give them time together in other rooms or outside (remember to have a portable potty box available to the puppies no matter where they are). Your brood will help teach her puppies impulse control and patience.

Environment

Cleanliness and hygiene are still very important. The puppies should be ready for a larger living space, only if potty training is going well. If you notice the puppies' potty-training success go down after expansion, make their pen smaller, especially at night.

Sights, Sounds and Smells. This week the puppy pen should be fairly noisy for most of the day with radio, household noises (vacuuming, dishwasher, washer/dryer), TV, audio recordings, etc. While making sure your puppies are okay with noises, they also need to be comfortable in quiet.

Add new things to their space daily, make sure you are rotating and moving objects. **Reminder: the potty area stays where it is, do not move it around the pen, you can expand it.** Some ideas of what to add: a wobble board, Rubbermaid stepstool, crate doors, exercise pen folded and, on the floor, drape a blanket over the exercise pen on the floor for a different experience, puppy size dog walk, children's wading pool with toys inside or depending on weather water, puppy teeter totter, children, or cat tunnels, raised dog bed, and climbing area such as a little tike climbing toy. Use your imagination and have fun! Remember to clean and rotate items daily, and make sure the puppies are safe.



Cleaning. Continue cleaning with Rescue, Pure Green 24, hydrogen peroxide, or undiluted distilled vinegar. Clean and disinfect the puppy pen at least once a day. Clean all toys and bedding daily.

Remember the scent in the potty area should not be the same scent outside the potty area. Cleaning more often may be necessary, depending on the puppies you have.

Clean feces out of the box throughout the day, but do not replace the pellets until they have disintegrated.

Puppy Care Overview

- Refer to 'Weaning' section for feeding instructions. Using the puppy call every time you feed them.
- Introduce new protein sources when feeding the puppies regularly.
- Worm your puppies.
- Give puppies first real bath.
- Safe field trip at least once this week.
- Continue car rides.
- Start crate training.
- Daily handling and grooming sessions – start “intentional handling”
- Introduce puppies to new sights, sounds and smells daily.
- Continue potty training process.
- Continue “all four on the floor” protocol.
- Check collars daily.

Puppy Care

This week your puppies are becoming little dogs. They will be busy, busy, busy and make you laugh often. Puppies this week are little learning machines, although not perfect, they realize that doing A causes B. Your puppies might show signs of wariness, which is normal but must be handled by their humans correctly for them to develop into balanced, confident adult dogs. It is important this week to take the puppies on a safe field trip if you can.

Look for opportunities to introduce the puppies to new sounds this week. Thunderstorms, fireworks, airplanes, trucks, chain saws, or someone doing yard work are all great things for your puppies to experience.

Feeding and Supplementing. Your puppies should be getting a soft version of their mom's food, slowly decreasing the amount of water you are adding and increasing the amount of puppy kibble. Continue introducing a new protein source often, add a fish oil and probiotic to one meal daily.

Continue feeding your puppies in new environments, with new bowls when possible. It is very important to feed at least one meal in a crate this week.

Always have water available.

Resource Guarding. As often as you can, sit with the puppies while they eat so they get used to humans being near their food. Do not touch them until you notice they are relaxed about you being there. Once you notice they are relaxed, you can begin to pet them on their backs while they eat. Do not take their food away from them unless they are bullying the other puppies, or you have a treat to trade for their food.

If you notice puppies that are tense when you or other puppies come near their food, they should be given space while they eat. They have likely learned this behavior because of other puppies bullying them out of their food dish. If you notice a puppy trying to bully another puppy out of their food dish, reach in and pick that puppy and their food bowl out of the pen, place the food up away from the puppy outside of the pen away from its siblings. Don't say anything to the puppy, just reach in and pick up to place on the other side of the barrier. Leave them outside the pen without their food for about 15 to 30 seconds, depending on how insistent they are on bullying their siblings. When the puppy has calmed down give them their food bowl.

Intentional Handling. It is in your power to make sure every puppy is accepting of being restrained and examined by their veterinarian, groomers, and strangers. Teaching your puppies that having all parts of their bodies handled will save a lot of stress in future. It may seem like a lot, but it should only take a couple minutes a day. You do not need to do all these steps on every puppy daily, but make sure they are all exposed to every protocol often. Follow these simple steps:

- 1) While sitting on the floor gently but firmly restrain your puppy. Do this daily until your puppies' immediate reaction is to hold still when you restrain them.
 - a) If your puppy struggles, calmly talk and reassure them while hanging on until they stop struggling. As soon as they stop let them go. Doing this teaches them that being still gets what they want – freedom.
- 2) Once your puppies have learned to relax when you hold them, increase the time you are holding them in place. Be sure to reward with praise and treats while restraining for longer periods.
 - a) It's important to place the treat directly in front of your puppies' mouth so they can get it without moving.
 - b) Always remember to use praise and talk to them in a calm reassuring way.
- 3) Once your puppy is comfortable being held in place, start handling and holding each part of your puppy's body.
 - a) Remember to reward your puppy as you are handling each body part with praise and treats.
 - b) Repeat these exercises on all legs/feet.
 - c) If your puppy struggles while you are manipulating him, *gently* hang on until he stops and then try again.

Feet

- Pick up puppies' foot.
- Firmly run your fingers over each toe individually.
- Examine the bottom of the foot between the pads.

Legs

- Pick up your pup's leg just below his knee/hock.
- Gently extend it forward and back.
- Gently move it from side to side.
- Never force the leg in any direction!

Ears

- Lift the ear.
- Rub the ear leather between your fingers.
- Look closely at the inside of the ear, so your pup gets used to your head being near his head.
- Gently rub the inside of the ear.

Mouth

- Open your pup's mouth and look down his throat.
- Lift your pups' lips to examine his teeth and gums.
- Carefully rub your finger over his teeth and gums, making sure he does not bite down.

Eyes

- Holding your pup's head, look in his eye.
- Touch the edge of his eyelid.
- Gently spread his eyelids apart exposing the eye itself.
- Be sure not to touch his eyeball.

Genitals

- Gently touch your pup's genital area.
- For female puppies check to see if they have a recessed vulva, if they do use a warm, wet cloth to clean the area.

Tail

- Gently lift your pup's tail and move it up and down.
- Be sure not to force it in any direction.
- While lifting his tail, touch the area around his rectum.

Body

- Move your hands over his back.
- Move your hands over his chest.
- Move your hands over both sides of his abdomen.
- While he is lying down move your hands over his belly, scratching it while you are there.
- Spread his legs apart and move your hands along their inner thighs.

Bathing, Blow-Drying and Dremeling. You should already be handling your puppies daily, trimming their toe nails every three days, and using the bottom of a Dremel on their feet so they are used to the vibrations. Now is the time to give the puppies their first bath. You can bathe them in your kitchen sink, utility sink, or your bathtub. **Do not give them their first bath outside.** Make sure you clear the area around the sink or bathtub, so the puppy does not break anything accidentally. Use a puppy, or baby specific shampoo (no -tears shampoo). You will need lots of towels and some peanut butter or soft cheese.

Spread the peanut butter or soft cheese on a side of the sink/bathtub and show it to the puppy so it can lick it up while you are bathing it. Use warm water, not hot. If your puppy struggles go not get angry, just hold the puppy in place until it settles and reward when it relaxes with praise and a high value treat. If the puppy is really struggling just do a quick bath and make note to work with this puppy on their fear of water. Rinse the puppy thoroughly and dry with a towel. It is a great time for a cuddle session while the puppy is still drying in their towel.

If you have a blow dryer you can introduce the puppies to this. Try to use a low setting or use your hand to reduce the air flow onto the puppy. Never blow dry a puppy's face or the inside of their ears. Always praise and treat your puppies for being calm and relaxed.

Crate Training. Each puppy will react differently to being in their crates. Your goal is to teach each puppy that a quiet puppy gets to see out of the crate and treats magically fall from above.

For each crate training session:

- Place a sheet over the crate so it is completely covered on two sides.
- Add a high value treat or feed a meal in the crate.
- Have a toy or something similar for the puppy to cuddle with.
- Have something nearby that so you can time the session.

For the first several sessions feed the puppy(s) in their crate with the door closed. Pay very close attention so you can open the door as soon as the puppy is done eating their food. Do this a couple times with each puppy. Allowing more and more time to go by before you open the door. As the amount of time gets longer before you allow the puppies out make sure you are dropping treats into their kennels when they are quiet.

- Drop treats in kennels every second or so when your puppies are quiet (be generous!).

- When a puppy starts to bark stop dropping treats immediately and cover the crate so the puppy can not see you.
- Uncover the puppy the moment it stops barking (ignore whining, only respond to barking)
- Repeat this process for the time you have allotted; gradually increase the duration as your puppies have success (i.e., Session one – 3-5 minutes, session two – 5-10 minutes, session three 10-15 minutes etc.).
- Only remove quiet puppies from the crate.

Development of the Puppies

- Growth and development continue.
- Pups are more receptive to training/learning.
- Dominance order starts.

Seventh Week (Days 43 - 49)

Brood Care Overview-

- Check breasts daily.
- Start reducing her food.

Brood Care

The care for you brood is essentially the same this week. You will notice her puppies are not nursing on her as much as previous weeks. Continue checking her for hard or hot mammary glands, but the risks are much smaller. She may still have a vaginal discharge, but if it isn't smelly, or looks like puss or blood this is normal.

Feeding. It is time to start reducing your brood's food intake. Continue to monitor her body condition while you reduce it, making sure she does not get too thin, or fat. Remember to check the lactation guideline at the end of this manual for ideas or contact your Breeding Coordinator.

LITTER SIZE (#PUPS/LITTER)	AMOUNT BY WEEK 7- (Time to start reducing food)
Small – 6 or less	100% more per pup of maintenance
Average 6 to 8	200% (2 x more) more than maintenance
Large – 9 or more	300% (3x more) more than maintenance

Correcting and Playing with Puppies. Most broods will spend time playing with their puppies this week. Some broods really enjoy their puppies, and others merely tolerate them. Allow your brood to spend time with her puppies when she chooses to. Allowing her to appropriately play

with her puppies will teach them lessons humans cannot. Never lock her in the pen. If she is locked in with them, she may resort to harsh corrections, which can have a negative affect on the puppies. It has been shown that puppies with a mother who overcorrects are often fearful and anxious adults.

It is important to know the difference between overcorrecting and appropriate correcting. When the puppies get too rough with their teeth their mom will growl, and possibly snap at them. This may look and sound harsh, but as long as their mom is not grabbing or biting a puppy, allow this to happen. Corrections sound ferocious and terrify the puppy, but this is one of the best ways the puppy will learn bite inhibition.

Puppy Care Overview

- Puppies should be weaned and eating puppy kibble.
- Temperament testing will be performed.
- Continue grooming and handling protocol.
- Continue crate training, and adventures.
- Be vigilant for any signs of resource guarding.
- Vet exams, vaccinations, and microchips.

Environment

Continue your cleaning protocol. It is going to be very difficult to keep the puppies safe and clean while providing as much mental and physical stimulation as possible. Expand their pen as much as you can, remembering to leave their potty area in the same place if possible. Bring the puppies into new puppy proof areas of the house to keep them occupied. Provide them with clean new toys and equipment often.

Puppy Care

Puppies this week are little sharks! They are starting, in earnest, to bite (hard!), and chew on everything. They are able to recognize their people and can learn new commands. In the whelping room relationships are starting to develop and you may see some real fighting between the puppies. Step in when it gets too intense, but the puppies are teaching each other bite inhibition and should be allowed to try and figure it out when appropriate. Your puppies are sleeping less, and it will be challenging to keep them stimulated. Continue rotating toys and setting up new obstacles for the puppies in the pens and other play areas.

Health Exams. It is time to have your puppies examined by a veterinarian. They can get their first vaccinations this week, get their microchips, and be seen by a board-certified

ophthalmologist for an eye exam. The vaccinations your puppies need are a distemper/parvo combo (do not get one with Leptospirosis vaccination at this age), and Bordetella.

Crate Training. Continue working with the puppies on their crate training. The more you expose the puppies to their crates the easier it will be for them as they grow. Use high value treats, feed a meal in the crate, give them a high value chew bone etc. Try to do some crate training sessions while your puppies are tired, use shorter more frequent sessions.

Starting Leash Training. You can attach a leash to the puppies collar this week and begin introducing them to walking on leash. Some of your puppies might balk and buck when they feel the pressure on their neck. Help calm them down with a soothing voice and use treats to keep their mind off the leash pressure. When the puppy you are working with is calm take a couple steps with a little pressure on the leash and entice the puppy to come towards you, praise and treat when they get to you. Do not use commands such as “come” or “here” just use kissy noises.

Solo Puppy Time. This is a busy week, but if you can give each puppy solo time away from their siblings once or twice. You may recruit help from friends or family members to bring the puppies into another room for some cuddling, intentional handling, and play time. Take notes on how each puppy does being away from their siblings. They are really starting to develop their individual personalities and you will be able to see the differences.

Feeding. Puppy kibble should be their primary source of food this week. Continue mixing different proteins in such as canned fish, eggs, or different puppy kibble. Always have water available to the puppies. Remember to watch for resource guarding.

Development of the Puppies

- Puppies have achieved total hearing and visual capability.
- Will investigate anything.
- Need a lot of stimulation to keep their brains occupied.

Eighth Week (Days 50- 56)

Brood Care Overview

- Slowly reduce her food back to her maintenance amount.
- Continue her regular exercise schedule.
- Give all the love and attention for all the hard work she has done!

Continue all of the handling and training protocols for this week and enjoy the puppies. At the end of this week, they will go to their new foster homes. The puppies have been carefully matched to their new puppy raisers and those people have met the requirements on the application, attended orientation, and had a positive home check.

Thank you!!!!

Emergency Contact List

Hannah Crane

Puppy Program Manager

541-423-8340 M-F 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

209-840-4311 Cell

Animal Medical Hospital

Reproductive Vet

541-482-2786

Southern Oregon Veterinary Specialty Center

Emergency Vet

541-282-7711

Complications

Mastitis

Mastitis is the inflammation of breast tissue. It is most often caused by an infection but can form due to a blocked duct. Checking mammary glands daily and responding to any signs quickly is imperative. If you suspect mastitis is beginning to occur, call your Breeding Coordinator immediately.

You can help prevent this by keeping the whelping box impeccably clean, keep the puppy's toenails clipped down so they don't scratch, and make sure the puppies are suckling and emptying all of the nipples equally.

Identifying Mastitis:

- Examine your broods' breasts at least once a day. More often is better.
- Feel for heat in mammary gland.
- Feel for hardness.
- Look for skin that has an orange peel appearance
- Look for discoloration. Glands with mastitis are usually red but can turn green, dark purple or even black. If they are any color other than red get her to the vet immediately and call your Breeding Coordinator.
- Look for abscesses. If you see any get your brood to the vet and call your Breeding Coordinator.

If you suspect something is wrong with your broods' mammary glands and she is acting off, is lethargic, and off her food take her temperature and call your Breeding Coordinator immediately. If her temperature is over 102.9°F get her to the vet. If her temperature is over 103.9°F start cooling her with dampened cool water towels while you drive to the vet.



Treating Mastitis:

- **Check the milk.** If her temperature is relatively low, milk the nipple until it produces some milk. Examine the milks color and smell. If it is white or a yellowish-white color, allow her puppies to nurse on the breast. If the milk is pink, appears curdled or smells sour, don't let the puppies nurse, and get to the vet.
- If you feel hardness within a breast but no heat, put the strongest puppy on that nipple to nurse it dry. If the breast still has milk in it when the puppy quits, put another puppy on until it is dry.
- **Warm Compresses.** As soon as you think a breast may have a problem, put warm compresses on the hard area for at least 20 minutes every 2 hours until the hardness goes away. Compresses should be very warm, but not hot enough to make your brood uncomfortable or to burn her skin. Use vet wrap or something similar to hold it in place. Make sure you are praising and petting your girl for tolerating this treatment. Between treatments encourage stronger puppies to nurse on that nipple if the milk is not too bad.
- **Cabbage Leaves.** Between compressing put a frozen or cold cabbage leaf on the hard area. Leave this on until it wilts. Cabbage leaves have been proven to help draw out the infections, we still do not truly understand how this works.
- **Monitor her temperature.** If you feel heat in addition to hardness in her breast, start taking her temperature every two hours. If her temperature is above 102.9°F take her to the vet. She may need an antibiotic treatment. **Do not wait days for this.** Immediately

call the vet for an appointment and let your Breeding Coordinator know. Mastitis can go from mild to serious in a matter of hours.

Metritis

Metritis is a rare but very serious inflammation in the lining of the uterus. It is caused by a very serious bacterial infection. If it is going to happen, it will be in the first week after whelping. It is thought to be caused by dystocia and placental retention.

If you notice any of these symptoms call your Breeding Coordinator immediately and be ready to take your brood to the vet.

Identifying Metritis:

- Your brood will obviously feel very bad and look ill.
- Odorous vaginal discharge that is green or has pink or yellow pus in it.
- Swollen abdomen.
- Dehydration (check this by lightly pinching some of her skin, if it stays tented for a few seconds or longer, she is dehydrated).
- Dark red gums.

Treating Metritis:

This requires medical intervention, and your brood will need to be seen by a veterinarian.

Pyometra

Pyometra is a very serious uterine infection that usually occurs between two and eight weeks after their season, whether or not they were bred. Broods with pyometra can be or appear to be pregnant so you need to be very aware of the symptoms. There are two types of pyometra, open and closed. In open pyometra the brood's cervix is open so you will see a bloody discharge. In a closed pyometra the brood's cervix is closed so there will be no discharge. Closed pyometra is usually the more serious since the brood's body cannot rid itself of the infection.

If you notice any of these symptoms call your Breeding Coordinator immediately and be ready to take your brood to the vet.

Identifying Pyometra:

- Lack of appetite.
- Increased drinking.
- Increased urination.
- Lethargy.
- Sometimes they will develop a fever, but don't rely on this symptom.
- In later stages her abdomen may be swollen from built up pus in her uterus.

Treating Pyometra:

This requires medical intervention, and your brood will need to be seen by a veterinarian.

Eclampsia (Hypocalcemia, Milk Fever)

Eclampsia is a rare, but life-threatening condition that develops when your brood's calcium levels in her blood drops greatly. When it does occur, it is primarily in maiden broods, or broods with large litters. It most often occurs two to four weeks after whelping when nursing demands are at their highest. It can occur before the puppies are born, and anytime during lactation. Eclampsia can come on very quickly, so always be on the lookout for the below symptoms.

Identifying Eclampsia:

- Excessive panting.
- Nervousness.
- Whining.
- Poor mothering.
- Facial itching.
- Stiffness.
- Seizures.
- Fever.
- Body tremors.
- Pupil dilation.
- Staggering.

Treating Eclampsia: Call your breeder coordinator and take your broods temperature if you notice poor mothering, nervousness, whining but no other symptoms. **If you notice body tremors, seizures, stiffness call the vet immediately, this is a medical emergency.**

Even the slightest unusual stumble or muscle tremor is a good reason to take your broods temperature. If it is above 102.9°F, head to your vet. Follow your veterinarian's guidance but typically the puppies will need to be removed from the brood if she does have eclampsia and depending on age they will need to be weaned or bottle-fed until they can be weaned. Your brood will not be able to interact with her puppies until her milk is completely dried up as even being near her puppies can trigger milk production. Work with your Breeding Coordinator to dry up your brood.

Supplementing with Calcium

Over the last several years breeders have noticed that oral calcium can dramatically, if not completely stop strange behaviors in their broods. Calcium supplementation has not been officially researched yet; this is all based on hundreds of breeder's experiences. If you see any

of the below behaviors in your brood, and her temperature is normal, try oral calcium before taking her to the vet. Always let your breeder coordinator know if you see these behaviors.

- Poor mothering
- Anxiety
- Digging in or out of the whelping box
- Trying to hide
- Leaving whelping box and puppies
- Ignoring puppies
- Restlessness
- Moving puppies
- Burying puppies
- Growling at puppies
- Biting people
- Growling at familiar people

Some broods need oral calcium at every feeding until her puppies are weaned. Others only need it for a couple days. Let your brood's behavior determine how much, and how often you supplement her.

The maximum amount of elemental calcium you can give your brood a day is 91 mg for every pound of body weight. Elemental calcium is the amount of calcium a brood can actually absorb. **Do not start supplementing with calcium until the first puppy is born.**



Recipes

Liver Water:

Liver water is used to give an extra boost of energy and vitamins to a fading/weak puppy. You may also use it in small amounts for a stressed brood/dog that needs extra calcium and nutrition.

Warm to 100°F before giving to a puppy/dog (use the wrist test)

1. Place a small piece (8 oz) of beef liver in a saucepan
2. Add approximately 1- 1 ½ cup water to cover liver
3. Gently boil the liver and water until the liver is no longer bloody
4. Remove from heat
5. Remove the piece of liver from water (you may use this in small portions as a treat for brood, or your other dogs)
6. Strain the liver water through either a coffee filter or fine mesh strainer
7. Use thermometer or the wrist test to ensure liquids are body temperature (every time!)
8. 0.5 ml to 1.0 ml orally as needed (up to every 30 minutes)
9. Refrigerate for up to two days – remember to heat to 100°F before supplementing

Mothers Pudding:

Do not give to your brood until after the first puppy has been whelped. This is a great source of calcium, fat, and protein plus a quick energy boost. If your brood is getting tired between whelping puppies a batch of this should help her. This is also a great recipe for lactating broods who need some extra help producing milk. If your brood is a finicky eater they will usually gladly lap this up.

- 1 package vanilla pudding (**VERY IMPORTANT** - do not use **instant** pudding. It has an additive that can give the puppies diarrhea. Use the kind of pudding that has to be cooked.)
 - 1/4 – 1/2 cup sugar
 - 4 cups milk (preferably goat milk, but WHOLE cow's milk is fine if that's what you have)
 - 4 egg yolks
 - Optional – 1 fenugreek tea bag. Fenugreek helps increase milk supply
- Mix the pudding powder with milk, add yolks, and sugar, mix well, and cook stirring constantly. When it just starts to boil turn it off and, if you are using one, put a teabag of fenugreek in. Take the tea bag out after 2-3 minutes. Cool the pudding and give it to your brood. ***If you are just trying to increase her milk supply do not add the sugar, and make sure you are using a fenugreek tea bag.***

If you don't have a package of vanilla pudding on hand you can mix the following in a saucepan and cook to pudding consistency.

- 2/3 cup sugar
- 6 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups milk (or one can evaporated milk plus equal parts water to make quart)
- 4 egg yolks
- 3 teaspoon vanilla

5% Glucose Solution:

- White corn syrup (light Karo syrup)
- Unflavored Pedialyte

Add one teaspoon of white corn syrup (or light karo syrup) to four tablespoons of unflavored Pedialyte.

Give weak puppies five to six drops using an eye dropper for every 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of body weight. Make sure you give one drop at a time and that the puppy is swallowing before giving the next drop. You may repeat these steps every four hours until the puppy starts to gain weight from nursing. Be sure to weigh the puppy before dosing every time.

Lactation Guideline

Stage Lactation	Litter Size	Amount	
Days 0-7	< 5 pups	1 ½ – 2 C	2x/day
	5-7 pups	2 C	2x/day
	8+ pups	2 1/2 C	2x/day
Days 8-14	< 5 pups	1 ½ C – 2 C	3x/day
	5-7 pups	2 C	3x/day
	8+ pups	2 1/2 C	3x/day
Days 15-21	< 5 pups	1 ½ C – 2 C	4x/day
	5-7 pups	2 C	4x/day
	8+ pups	2 1/2 C	4x/day
Days 22-32	< 5 pups	2 C	5x/day
	5-7 pups	2½ C	5x/day
	8+ pups	3 C	5x/day
Days 33-37	< 5 pups	2 C	4x/day
	5-7 pups	2½ C	4x/day
	8+ pups	3 C	4x/day
Days 38-42	< 5 pups	2 C	3x/day
	5-7 pups	2½ C	3x/day
	8+ pups	3 C	3x/day
Days 43-47	< 5 pups	2 C	2x/day
	5-7 pups	2½ C	2x/day
	8+ pups	3 C	2x/day
Day 48+		Transition to pre-pregnancy diet	

This is a feeding guideline based on a brood fed 1 ½ - 2 cups/day of food pre pregnancy. Her food consumption may vary from the amounts listed here - **this is merely a guideline**. The Breeding Coordinator will advise you if you have any questions regarding feeding. You may feed smaller portions up to 6 x/day.