

KC PET PROJECT

Mom & Puppy Guide

LAST REVISED: APRIL 2024



KC PET PROJECT FOSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

FOSTER DEPARTMENT

Email: dogfoster@kcpetproject.org
Office Phone: (816) 648-0430

FOSTER EMERGENCY NUMBER

Phone: (816) 648-0430
*Emergency: Medical, Escape, Bite

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Email: vetclinic@kcpetproject.org
Phone: (816) 683-1353
Non-Emergency Medical Concerns, click this [link](#).

BEHAVIOR DEPARTMENT

Email: behavior@kcpetproject.org

KC PET PROJECT ADOPTION CENTER LOCATIONS

KC Pet Project Hours of Operations can be found online:
<https://kcpetproject.org/contact/>

Kansas City Campus for Animal Care (KCCAC)

7077 Elmwood Avenue
Kansas City, MO., 64132
(816) 683-1383

Petco Pet Adoption Center (95th)

11620 W 95th Street
Overland Park, KS., 66214
(913) 438-9740

Zona Rosa Adoption Center (Zona)

8721 N. Stoddard Avenue
Kansas City, MO., 64153
(816) 587-0224

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Admissions: admissions@kcpetproject.org

Adoptions: adoptions@kcpetproject.org

Keep 'Em Together, KC: pethelp@kcpetproject.org

Lost and Found: lostandfound@kcpetproject.org

Rehome: rehome@kcpetproject.org

Volunteer: volunteer@kcpetproject.org

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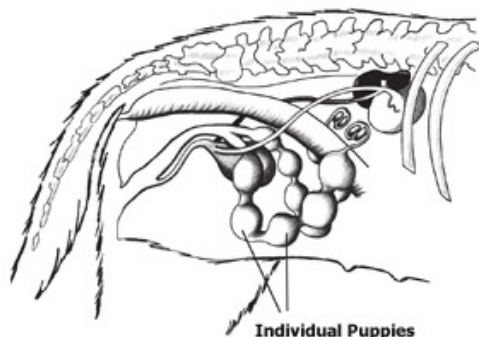
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WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING



Like a new parent, we are sure you're excited to welcome the newest canine additions to the world! If this is your first experience with a dog giving birth in your home, don't worry! We are here to help guide you and give you resources to make sure both you, and mama, are comfortable.

Pregnant Dog Anatomy & Information



Individual Puppies

You may be surprised to learn that a pregnant dog does not carry her puppies in the same way a pregnant human does. Instead of one sac, a dog carries their puppies in separate sacs that appear like a cluster of grapes. At birth, each puppy passes individually through the dog's birth canal.

A dog's gestation period (the length of time they are pregnant) is around 63 days, or just over 2 months. In the first couple of weeks, you're likely to see the pregnancy symptoms you're familiar with such as the dog is more tired, vomiting or not as interested in eating. Later in their pregnancy, you may see more nesting behaviors which we will go into further below.

Before Birth

You don't need to treat your mama dog any differently than any other dog before birth; plenty of food, water and trips outside are all things she needs! We feed pregnant dogs dry puppy food two to three times a day to ensure they are getting all the nutrients they need to nurture their bodies and growing puppies. You can also give them canned wet food if you'd like. She will likely not be up for long walks, but may enjoy a short stroll in your neighborhood or backyard. Their bodies are working hard to give the unborn puppies all the nutrients they need, so you may note that momma dog tires easily and sleeps a lot which is totally normal.

You may notice some clear/cloudy discharge after/while mama potties; this is normal and a sign that you might be getting closer to birth day. If the discharge is any other color, you should contact the Foster Department to get their opinion.

One thing you definitely want to give mama dog lots of is: love! As much as mama will tolerate!



Dry Puppy Food
3xs a Day!

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

Supplies Needed



Hand Sanitizer

Use during delivery, and for visitors



Newspapers and/or Puppy Pads

Absorbs discharge during delivery & to use when puppies get bigger



Towels/Blankets

Use during delivery in the whelping box



Bleach

Add to laundry when washing towels/blankets



Scale to Weigh Puppies

Ensures puppies are gaining weight



Baby Wipes

Clean up small messes & wipe off puppies after they are a few days old



Warming Disc

Helps keep puppies warm; should be covered with a towel



Kiddie Pool/XPen/Crate

Used as a whelping area

Birthing Area Set Up

The ideal whelping area is an enclosure that momma dog can easily step out of but has sides that are high enough to keep the puppies contained for at least the first few weeks. Blue plastic “kiddie” pools are a great option! These are usually available at our KC Campus for Animal Care (KCCAC) location. If not, they can be purchased at most large discount stores, in season, or at pet stores. These pools work well for most dogs but if you have a very small dog then you may need to use something even smaller. The whelping box or pool should be placed in a low-traffic, quiet part of your home where the momma dog will feel more secure. If you have a utility room, spare bedroom, or bathroom that is ideal. Do not put her in a garage or other external area unless it is climate controlled. If you cannot put the momma and pups in a separate room, put them in a quiet space in your home.



You can also use an X-pen around the delivery area to keep others away from the momma and her pups. The X-pen can also be surrounded with sheets so that the momma feels more hidden and secure. Keep all other pets away from the momma and her pups. After giving birth momma may be very protective of her new family. Because other animals and people getting too close may create stress for the momma she may growl or show other warning signs to stay away. If this behavior is severe enough to be of concern, please contact the Behavior & Foster Team.

How to Know Labor Has Started

Every dog is different, but one of the first signs that mama is about to go into labor is when they start looking for a place to have their puppies. She may start digging in the yard, or trying to hide in a place where her puppies will be protected. If you notice that mama is trying to get under things, or hide in places, she is likely nesting. During this time, you may want to keep her on a leash to prevent her from going into a space you cannot get her out of.

Mama may also stop eating (refusing food or even vomiting), and begin panting heavily. If a spot is ready for her, it's a good idea to move mama to her whelping area.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

Time to Push!

Nature is amazing, and mama will know exactly what to do during the delivery of her pups. There is no need to touch the dog while she is having contractions and working through her labor. Puppies can be delivered anywhere from a few minutes to 2 hours apart. It's completely normal for mama to be tired, panting, and uncomfortable after giving birth, and bloody vaginal discharge is also to be expected.

If mama becomes too exhausted to lift her head to care for the pups, or seems to be in distress, check her gum color. Gums should be bubble gum pink. If they are white, or gray, contact the foster emergency line immediately. In addition, if you observe any of the following, please contact the foster emergency line immediately:



Mama is hemorrhaging blood

Bloody discharge is normal, but bright red streams of blood from her vulva is not



Mama is unable to stand or fainting



Mama is screaming or moaning in pain

For delivery related matters, please limit your use of the foster emergency line to the specific matters above. If you suspect that mama may still have pups inside but she isn't showing any of these signs of distress, please contact the Foster Department. For non-emergency questions about latching, nursing, etc., please contact the Foster team.

During the delivery of each pup, mama will do everything necessary. She will tear the sac with her teeth and pull and chew on the umbilical cord. You might feel like mama is being too rough with her pups, but rest assured this is normal and there is no need to interfere with the process unless mama is not doing what is necessary (if she does not tear/clear the sac, you will need to do so per the section below). Mama will eat the placenta and delivery sac. She will lick the puppy clean, and this will stimulate the puppy to breathe and begin to move around to find a place to latch onto one of the mama's teats.



How Can I Help?

In general, your job during delivery is minimal. You'll just want to observe the delivery to make sure everything is going well and mama does not appear to be having any difficulties. Once the puppies are born, watch them to make sure all are "wiggly" and starting to nurse. If you have questions or feel like something might be wrong, contact the foster team to answer your questions or provide you with further directions.

If something is going wrong, you may need to intervene to help. This is rare, but if mama does not do any post-delivery care (clearing the sac, cutting the cord, licking the puppy to get it to breathe, etc.) you may need to help her. If any pups are left with their head still in the sac and seem limp, you may need to intervene and clean away the sac, rub them gently with a warm damp cloth to clean them, and stimulate them. If necessary, you can use a bulb syringe to clear their throat and blow into their mouths a few times.

Once they start moving, put them on mama's teat to nurse. This may sound scary, remember that in nature, or if mama was alone, the puppy would likely not survive in this situation. So, anything you do is likely to help save their lives. At the same time, also know that it is not uncommon for some puppies to not survive. Some may be stillborn or die shortly after birth. By providing a warm, safe place for mama to deliver, you already increased their chances of survival!

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

How Should I Care for the Puppies?

Your interaction with the puppies should be very minimal. The most important thing is to watch to see that each of them is moving and has started nursing.

As the puppies are born, note the date and time of each puppy's birth. This will be helpful information for the KCPP Team as you can tell them exactly how old the puppy is in hours or minutes. Weigh each puppy as soon after delivery as possible, but wait at least 2 hours after momma has stopped laboring (and only weigh them if mama is comfortable with you handling them, and do not take them far from her side). Note the color of the puppy and any special markings for each puppy so you can tell them apart. Taking a picture of each puppy can also help you keep track of them. Once you have weighed the puppy, put it back near the momma and watch to be sure it starts to nurse. Record the information and then move on to the next puppy until you are finished with each one. Using a spreadsheet during delivery can be helpful, especially if your mama dog has several puppies. Each puppy can be called Puppy 1, Puppy 2, Puppy 3, etc. until you give them names. Here is an example of a spreadsheet:



Name	Date of Birth	Time of Birth	Weight at Birth (in ounces)	Primary/Secondary Color	Markings	Picture
Puppy 1						
Puppy 2						
Puppy 3						

What Now?

Once you are sure that mama has finished delivering her pups, the first thing to do is clean up the whelping box or pool and put down clean, dry blankets or towels. This is where the warming disc may be useful. You can make a bed for the puppies in a plastic bin and set it on top of the warming disc while you are cleaning the whelping area. Using newspaper and/or puppy pee pads to layer over blankets and towels may help to keep them clean longer. Regardless, there will be daily washing of dirty laundry.

Mama will probably want to eat and drink once her delivery is over. **Be sure to have plenty of food and water available.** Mama should be eating puppy food and will eat much more food than usual while she is nursing. Most bags of puppy food will indicate how much to feed a nursing mom daily. In addition to dry food, you can mix a can of wet puppy food for a yummy mix for mama to eat. Provide her with as much food as she will eat. You can also leave a bowl of dry food out for her to eat at will. She should have access to fresh water at all times as well.





RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

Watching moms raise their puppies is fun and incredibly rewarding! Usually mom will do most of the work, but newborn and young puppies are very delicate, and sometimes she may need your help. Puppies in their first months of life are susceptible to what we refer to as fading puppy syndrome (hypothermia and hypoglycemia), so being hypervigilant is important. Even the slightest sign of illness can quickly turn into a life-threatening situation. Be sure you review the [Medical Care](#) portion of this handbook to ensure you're prepared to notice signs of illness and how to address them (*specifically, familiarize yourself with the [Fading Puppy Protocol](#)*).

Supplies Needed



Hand Sanitizer

Use during delivery, and for visitors



Newspapers and/or Puppy Pads

Absorbs discharge during delivery & to use when puppies get bigger



Towels/Blankets

Use during delivery in the whelping box



Bleach

Add to laundry when washing towels/blankets



Puppy Food (for Mama)

Pate style wet, kibble, and formula if able



Scale to Weigh Puppies

Ensures puppies are gaining weight



Baby Wipes

Clean up small messes & wipe off puppies after they are a few days old



Warming Disc

Helps keep puppies warm; should be covered with a towel



Thermometer

In case you need to check temperature



Kiddie Pool/XPen/Crate

Used as a whelping area

Important Behavior Note: It is normal for mama dogs to be protective of their puppies; it's part of what makes them a good mom. Because of this, make sure the mama dog and her babies have a space to themselves without other animals or frequent human traffic. We recommend putting other animals away when mama leaves the room to go outside. Please leave a lightweight drag leash on momma at all times, so you are able to easily take her outside without grabbing her collar. If she growls at you, other pets, or other household members, this is a warning that she is uncomfortable. Please respect it and give her space. If you have any concerns, please reach out to our Foster and Behavior Team.

RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 0-4 Weeks

Daily Requirements



Nursing

Puppies should be nursing vigorously & regularly



Warmth

Puppies should be kept warm at all times



Weighed

Puppies should be weighed & weights recorded

Red Flags *Submit a medical concern ticket to the Vet Clinic*



Very Watery or Explosive Diarrhea



Bloody Diarrhea



Not Eating

Even missing one meal

If you see the following symptoms, immediately begin the Fading Puppy Protocol (contact the Foster Department, but do not wait to start the protocol):



Extreme Lethargy

Not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet



Gasping for Breath



Whining/Crying Out



Cold to the Touch

The following should be considered emergencies (call the Foster Emergency number at 816-648-0430)

Seizures

Excessive Vomiting

At 2-4 weeks old; White or Grey Gums

Lethargy or Listlessness

RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 0-2 Weeks

Care

- Puppies should nurse vigorously and compete for nipples. Newborns can nurse up to 45 minutes at a time. Be sure to observe puppies nursing at least once a day (if the mama will permit it) and make sure that all of them are nursing and are not getting pushed away by other puppies.
 - A great deal of activity and crying could indicate a problem with milk flow, quality, or availability. When the mom re-enters the area, there should be some fussing for only a few minutes before everyone has settled down to serious nursing.
 - If any of them don't appear to be thriving you might need to gently pull them back a little to ensure they are actually nursing and not just mouthing the teat. You might also need to give some of the smallest ones some alone time with mom to make sure they are getting enough milk.
- Be sure to have plenty of food and water available for mom. Momma should be eating puppy food and will eat much more food than usual while she is nursing. Most bags of puppy food will indicate how much to feed a nursing mom daily. In addition to dry food you can mix a can of wet puppy food for a yummy mix for momma to eat. Provide her with as much food as she will eat. You can also leave a bowl of dry food out for her to eat at will. Lots of water will be needed too. Replenish the water as needed.
- For the first couple of weeks, the puppies will be nursing or sleeping. They will need to be kept warm and if necessary you can use the warming disc to provide additional heat.
 - *Remember to never put the puppies directly on it; always have a towel between the warming disc and the puppies.*
- Mom will stimulate the puppies to pee and poop by licking them, and she will swallow everything they eliminate. This is normal behavior and makes your job easier!
 - If it seems that mom is not doing this you may need to help stimulate the puppies to pee and poop as they can't do this on their own for the first couple of weeks. This is very easy - you just hold the puppy and gently rub a warm, damp cotton ball, baby wipe, or cloth on their bottoms shortly after they have nursed. They should eliminate then.
- Keeping the puppies warm is critical. **Please do not bathe them.**
- Weigh puppies once daily and record their weight to accurately assess growth.
 - If any of the pups lose weight 3 times in a row, or if any of them drop 10% of their body weight between weigh-ins, submit a **medical concern ticket** to the Vet Clinic
- Healthy puppies at 1-2 weeks will be round and warm, with pink skin. If you pinch them gently, their skin should spring back. When you pick a puppy up, it should wiggle energetically, and when you put it down near the mom it should crawl back to her. Healthy puppies seldom cry.
- **Minimize handling the puppies as much as possible.**

Milestones

**Ear canals open
between 5 and 8
days**

**Eyes open between
8 and 14 days**

They open gradually, usually starting to open from the nose outward. All puppies are born with blue eyes, and initially no pupils can be distinguished from the irises - the eyes will appear solid dark blue



Behavior

You should observe the mom's overall demeanor with the puppies. Most dogs are excellent moms, but occasionally a mom will be too rough or hurt the puppies. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the Behavior Team at behavior@kcpetproject.org and the Dog Foster Care Team at dogfoster@kcpetproject.org.

Puppies this young will sleep 90% of the time and eat the other 10%.



RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 2-4 Weeks

Care

- At this age the pups can urinate and defecate on their own.
- Unless your puppies are exhibiting any signs of illness, they should not need any medical care until they turn 2 weeks.
 - At 2 weeks, the puppies will need to be dewormed. Send an email to the Dog Foster Care Team with the puppies' weights, and the clinic will prepare the dewormer for you to pick up. It's very important to not expose puppies to the germs in the clinic unless it is absolutely necessary for them to be seen.
- Continue to weigh each puppy daily, regardless of outward, visible health. Sometimes puppies this age may appear to be thriving and growing but without measuring food and output there is no way to know for sure how your puppy(ies) are doing. Puppies can go downhill very quickly, often within 24hrs.
- Avoid too many guests. Minimizing exposure will help keep the puppies healthy.
- Puppies this age should be kept indoors to avoid exposure to parvo and other illnesses
- At 3 weeks, puppies will start cleaning themselves, although their mother will continue to do most of the serious cleaning. **Please continue to avoid bathing them.** 6 weeks is the earliest we recommend bathing puppies. If there is a specific reason why you think you need to bathe your foster puppy (e.g., urine scalding), please submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic.

Milestones

Eyes are opening now & puppies are beginning to hear sounds.

Adult eye color will begin to appear at 3-4 weeks but may not reach final shade for another 9-12 weeks. Puppies begin to see well, and their eyes begin to look and function like adult dogs' eyes.

Puppies are beginning to move around some and trying to stand up.

Puppies begin to crawl at around day 18 and can stand at around day 21

Behavior

Mom will begin to spend larger periods of time out of the nest, though she will not go far from it. Puppies will begin to play with each other, biting ears, tails, and paws even before their teeth have come in. Their milk teeth are cut during this period. They learn to sit and touch objects with their paws. Puppies begin their socialization phase - they will be strongly influenced by the behavior of their mother for the next several weeks. To further socialize puppies, increase the amount of handling, and get them accustomed to human contact. It is important not to expose them to anything frightening; children may seem intimidating and should be supervised closely while visiting to ensure gentle handling.



RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 4-8+ Weeks

Daily Requirements



Free Feed

Puppies should be allowed to free feed and should have easy access to fresh food & water



Weighed

Puppies should be weighed & weights recorded

Red Flags *Submit a medical concern ticket to the Vet Clinic*



Decrease in appetite



Diarrhea that does not improve within 72hrs



Very watery or explosive diarrhea



Losing interest in playing with littermates



Suddenly being "bullied" by littermates



Losing 0.5lbs in a 24hr period



Bloody Diarrhea



Vomiting

If you see the following symptoms, immediately begin the Fading Puppy Protocol (contact the Foster Department, but do not wait to start the protocol):



Extreme Lethargy

Not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet



Whining/Crying Out



Gasping for Breath



Cold to the Touch

The following should be considered emergencies (call the Foster Emergency number at 816-648-0430)

Seizures

White or Grey Gums

Lethargy or Unresponsive

Temperature above 102 degrees F (at rest)

RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 4-5 Weeks

Care

- At this age, you will need to start to wean the puppies with gruel. Gruel is watered down, warmed canned food (the same food you are feeding mom)--pate style, not chunky-- that is blended and made into a thin paste. If your puppies are eating the gruel well and seem hungry they can be started on the same high-quality canned puppy food you are feeding mom.
 - Ideally gruel is diluted with puppy milk replacer. Because this is expensive, and KCPP is not always able to provide it, water is used as the alternative. If you would like to purchase milk replacer to use, KCPP recommends Esbilac.
- Weaning should be a gradual process that occurs over several weeks. Puppies need time to learn important behaviors from their mother and littermates, including how to interpret signs of dominance, inhibit their own biting habits, and submit to more dominant dogs. It is also preferable for the mother to slowly dry up her milk supply. Weaning can definitely be a stressful time for puppies and mother and, whenever possible, should be a gradual and supervised process.
- Mama will usually begin weaning by discouraging her puppies from nursing; however, some dogs (particularly those with small litters) will allow nursing until the puppies are old enough for permanent homes. Some nursing activity is the canine equivalent of thumb-sucking, that is, for comfort only. Even if puppies appear to be nursing, they may not be getting all the nutrition they need from mom. Make sure they are eating food and gaining weight.
 - If momma is not doing this herself, you can help the weaning process along by separating her from her litter for a few hours at a time. While separated, introduce the puppies to eating from a shallow plate. This time apart will reduce the pups' dependency on their mother's milk and overall presence. The amount of food and the frequency and length of separation can gradually be increased. As the puppies become more independent and self-confident, they can spend more and more time away from their mother until they are completely weaned.
- Some puppies may prefer to lick the gruel from your fingers, if this is the case; slowly lower your finger to the plate and hold it to the food. This way the puppies will learn to eat with their heads bent down. Be patient, sometimes it takes two or three meals before they catch on. If they do not seem interested enough to even sniff your finger, try gently opening the puppies' mouth and rub a little bit of the food on their teeth. Hopefully this will result in the puppy starting to lick your finger. If they're still not getting the idea, you can take a syringe (without a needle) and squirt a small amount of gruel directly into their mouths.
- Be sure that the puppies always have access to fresh water in a low, stable bowl.



Behavior

Begin housebreaking at four weeks of age. This can be done by using a pile of newspapers or training pads in a corner. After each feeding, place the puppy on the papers, for him to go to the bathroom. Be patient! He may not remember to do this every time, or may forget where to find the papers, but he will learn quickly. Be sure to give the puppies lots of praise when they first start using their papers. It is a good idea to confine the puppies to a relatively small space, because the larger the area the puppies have to play in, the more likely they will forget where the papers are. Keep the papers clean and away from their food.

RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 5-6 Weeks

Care

- Feed gruel 4 times a day. Thicken the gruel gradually by reducing the amount of water mixed with it and gradually mix in dry puppy food. Introduce dry food and water, but continue weaning. For reluctant eaters, try mixing some puppy milk replacer into the gruel or tempt the puppy with some meat-flavored human baby food mixed with a bit of water. The familiar formula taste and smell or the baby food's meat flavor is often more appealing to the picky eaters than dog food. Once the puppy accepts the formula-based gruel or baby food, gradually mix in dry puppy food until the puppy has been weaned like the other puppies.
- At 6 weeks, puppies can be bathed to be kept clean but should be blow dried and fed immediately after.

Behavior

At about 5 weeks, puppies can start to roam around the room, under supervision. The strongest, most curious puppy will figure out how to get out of the nest. The others will quickly follow.



RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 6-7 Weeks

Care

- By this age the puppies should be eating dry food well. Feed the puppies at least 3-4 times a day.
 - If one puppy appears food-possessive, use a second dish and leave plenty of food out so that everyone can eat at the same time. Although the puppies may not eat much at a single sitting, they usually like to eat at frequent intervals throughout the day.

Behavior

By this time, you have "mini-dogs." They will wash themselves, play games with each other, their toys, and you, and many will come when you call them. Be sure to take them to their papers after meals, during play sessions, and after naps. These are the usual times that puppies need to eliminate.



RAISING PUPPIES WITH A MOM

AGE: 7-8+ Weeks

Care

- Offer dry food at least 3 - 4 times a day. Leave down a bowl of water for them to eat and drink at will. Mom should only be allowing brief nursing sessions, if any. Do not feed the puppies table scraps.

Milestones

Mama & puppies are made available for adoption!

At 8 weeks, KCPP foster puppies are made available for adoption on the website, and you will be asked for photos and names if you haven't already submitted them. Puppies go quickly, and you will begin receiving inquiries before long!

Spay/Neuter

Puppies are given a surgery date to be spayed and neutered as long as there is no medical reason to wait. The surgery date may be a few weeks in the future depending on how many other dogs are currently scheduled. Puppies that weigh less than 2 pounds or that are sick will not have surgery until they are well and weigh at least 2 pounds.

Vaccination

Until they have been vaccinated, you should carefully restrict their exposure to any disease. This means checking with visitors to make sure they have not been around any sick dogs and ensuring they always wash or sanitize their hands before handling the puppies.

Puppies that have not been fully vaccinated (usually around 20 weeks) should not be allowed on the ground in any public area where other dogs have been, e.g., pet stores, dog parks, and even neighborhood parks.

Dehydration

Puppies stay hydrated by drinking water and eating canned food. Most puppies will adequately hydrate themselves. You can do a quick elasticity test. Pinch a little skin between your thumb and forefinger on your pup's back. When you release it, it should pop back into place immediately. If you are concerned your puppy is becoming or is dehydrated, email the Vet Clinic Team. Puppies should always have access to clean water.

Hypoglycemia

Puppies will quickly become hypoglycemic if they miss even one meal. Just like a baby, puppies need to eat 3-4 times a day and always have access to fresh food. If puppies become even slightly hypoglycemic they can begin to go downhill very quickly. Signs of hypoglycemia are: wobbliness, listlessness and seizures.

If your puppy has a decreased appetite, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic. If your puppy is not eating, contact the Foster Department. If it's after hours, please call the Foster Department Emergency number at 816-648-0430.



Anemia

Puppies are also susceptible to anemia. Anemia is a loss of red blood cells that, in puppies, is most often caused by an infestation of fleas or intestinal worms. The easiest way to check for anemia is to look for white or very pale gums. Normal puppy gum color is close to salmon pink.

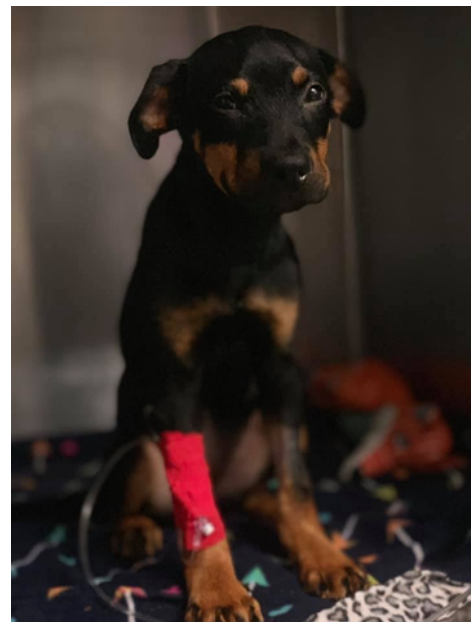
If your puppy's gums are white or grey, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic. If it's after hours, please call the Foster Department Emergency number. If you are concerned your puppy's gums are not pink enough, email the Foster Department; attaching a photo is helpful.

Parvovirus - Signs & Symptoms

Parvovirus is a highly contagious, serious, life-threatening condition that affects the intestinal tract and causes severe vomiting and diarrhea. KCPP has a Parvo ICU and successfully treats the virus. The key to survival is early detection. The signs and symptoms are:

- Decrease or loss of appetite, even missing one meal
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea in conjunction with one of the above
- Lethargy

If your puppy is experiencing any of these symptoms, email the Foster Department. If you do not receive a response within 3 hours, call the Foster Department Emergency line at 816-648-0430.



Meatball Test

For the most part a healthy puppy will always be excited to eat a treat. As a rule of thumb if a puppy is refusing to eat a meatball of canned food they may be sick. If you are concerned your puppy may be sick with either fever, parvo, parasites, or respiratory infection please offer a meatball of yummy food. If they do not eat it, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic.

Activity

It is important to recognize a lethargic puppy from a tired puppy. Puppies will normally play, play, play then get tired and sleep for a period of time. If your puppy is going through this cycle, that is normal. If your puppy seems lethargic, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic.

Socialization

Socialization is very important. Please refer to these resources: [Puppy Basics](#) and [The Puppy's Rule of 12](#). However, puppies that have not had any vaccinations should not be meeting any people outside the immediate household. If you have any questions about how best to socialize your puppy, please contact the Foster Team.



RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

Raising puppies is fun and incredibly rewarding, but it also requires some hard work and close monitoring. Puppies at this age are very delicate and require around the clock feeding and care, much like a human baby; they are also susceptible to what we refer to as fading puppy syndrome (hypothermia and hypoglycemia), so being hypervigilant is important. Even the slightest sign of illness can quickly turn into a life-threatening situation. Please review this [Fading Puppy Protocol](#) so that you are adequately prepared if such a life-threatening situation were to arise.

Supplies Needed



Hand Sanitizer

Use during delivery, and for visitors



Newspapers and/or Puppy Pads

Absorbs discharge during delivery & to use when puppies get bigger



Towels/Blankets

Use during delivery in the whelping box



Bleach

Add to laundry when washing towels/blankets



Puppy Food

Pate style wet, kibble, and formula if able



Stuffed Animal for Cuddling



Scale to Weigh Puppies

Ensures puppies are gaining weight



Baby Wipes

Clean up small messes & wipe off puppies after they are a few days old



Warming Disc

Helps keep puppies warm; should be covered with a towel



Thermometer

In case you need to check temperature



Bottles/Syringes



Kiddie Pool/XPen/Crate

Keeps young puppies contained and safe

Feeding with Formula: Formula should be made at a 1:2 ratio regardless of the recommendation. Formula should be warm but not hot. For guidelines on amounts and frequency of feedings, see the feeding chart addendum on the last page.

Note about tube feeding: In most cases, puppies under 4 weeks can be fed with a bottle, but there are cases--like puppies with cleft palate or those who are failing to thrive--where tube feeding may be necessary. The clinic will determine which method is appropriate and show you what to do.

RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 0-4 Weeks

Daily Requirements



Free Feed

Puppies should be fed at regular hourly intervals stated below. For guidelines on how much they should be eating, see the feeding chart addendum



Warmth

Puppies should be kept warm at all times



Weighed

Puppies should be weighed & weights recorded

Red Flags *Submit a medical concern ticket to the Vet Clinic*



Not interested in eating for 2 or more feedings



Very watery or explosive diarrhea



Losing 10% of body weight



Bloody Diarrhea

If you see the following symptoms, immediately begin the Fading Puppy Protocol (contact the Foster Department, but do not wait to start the protocol):



Extreme Lethargy

Not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet



Whining/Crying Out



Gasping for Breath



Cold to the Touch

The following should be considered emergencies (call the Foster Emergency number at 816-648-0430)

Seizures

Excessive vomiting

At 2-4 weeks old: White or Grey Gums

Lethargy or Unresponsive

RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 0-2 Weeks

Feeding

Puppies are fed at least every 3 hours, 24-hours a day, even if you have to wake them up to feed them.

Care

- Puppies are kept on a heating source at all times (heating pad on low).
- Puppies this young--and up until their eyes open--require stimulation to go potty after each feeding. This is very easy - you just hold the puppy and gently rub a warm, damp cotton ball, baby wipe, or cloth on their bottoms shortly after they have eaten. They should eliminate then.
- Keeping the puppies warm is critical. **Please do not bathe them.**
- Weigh puppies once daily and record their weight in the table below to accurately assess growth. If any of the pups lose weight 3 times in a row, or if any of them drop 10% of their body weight between weigh-ins, submit a **medical concern ticket** to the Vet Clinic.
- Healthy puppies at 1-2 weeks will be round and warm, with pink skin. If you pinch them gently, their skin should spring back. When you pick a puppy up, it should wiggle energetically. Healthy puppies seldom cry.
- *Minimize handling the puppies as much as possible.*



Milestones

**Ear canals open
between 5 and 8
days**

**Eyes open between
8 and 14 days**

They open gradually, usually starting to open from the nose outward. All puppies are born with blue eyes, and initially no pupils can be distinguished from the irises - the eyes will appear solid dark blue

Behavior

Puppies this young will sleep 90% of the time and eat the other 10%.

RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 2-4 Weeks

Feeding

Puppies continue to eat at least every 3 hours, but at 3-4 weeks old can go to every 4 hours, and by 4 weeks old can make it 4-6 hours overnight without a bottle.

Care

- Heat should be provided but they should be able to move away if needed.
- At this age the pups can urinate and defecate on their own.
- Unless your puppies are exhibiting any signs of illness, they should not need any medical care until they turn 2 weeks.
- At 2 weeks, the puppies will need to be dewormed. You will need to schedule a time with the Foster Department to pick up the dewormer, which you will administer yourselves to the puppy. This is very easy to do, and the Foster Team will show you how!
- Continue to weigh each puppy daily, regardless of outward, visible health. Sometimes puppies this age may appear to be thriving and growing but without measuring food and output there is no way to know for sure how your puppies are doing. Puppies can go downhill very quickly, often within 24hrs.
- Avoid too many guests. Minimizing exposure will help keep the puppies healthy.
- Puppies this age should be kept indoors to avoid exposure to parvo and other illnesses.
- At 3 weeks, puppies will start cleaning themselves. *Please continue to avoid bathing them.* 6 weeks is the earliest we recommend bathing puppies. If there is a specific reason why you think you need to bathe your foster puppy (e.g., urine scalding), submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic.



Milestones

Eyes are opening now & puppies are beginning to hear sounds.

Adult eye color will begin to appear at 3-4 weeks but may not reach final shade for another 9-12 weeks. Puppies begin to see well, and their eyes begin to look and function like adult dogs' eyes.

Puppies are beginning to move around some and trying to stand up.

Puppies begin to crawl at around day 18 and can stand at around day 21

Behavior

- Puppies will begin to play with each other, biting ears, tails, and paws even before their teeth have come in. Their milk teeth are cut during this period. They learn to sit and touch objects with their paws.
- Puppies begin their socialization phase. Normally, they would have been strongly influenced by the behavior of their mother for the next several weeks. To socialize puppies without a mom, increase the amount of handling, and get them accustomed to human contact. It is important not to expose them to anything frightening; children may seem intimidating and should be supervised closely while visiting to ensure gentle handling.

RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 4-8+ Weeks

Daily Requirements



Free Feed

Puppies should be allowed to free feed and should have easy access to fresh food & water



Weighed

Puppies should be weighed & weights recorded

Red Flags *Submit a medical concern ticket to the Vet Clinic*



Decrease in appetite



Diarrhea that does not improve within 72hrs



Losing interest in playing with littermates



Suddenly being "bullied" by littermates



Losing 0.5lbs in a 24hr period



Bloody Diarrhea



Vomiting

If you see the following symptoms, immediately begin the Fading Puppy Protocol (contact the Foster Department, but do not wait to start the protocol):



Extreme Lethargy

Not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet



Whining/Crying Out



Gasping for Breath



Cold to the Touch

The following should be considered emergencies (call the Foster Emergency number at 816-648-0430)

Seizures

White or Grey Gums

Lethargy or Unresponsive

Temperature above 102 degrees F (at rest)

RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 4-5 Weeks

Care

- At this age, you will need to start to wean the puppies with gruel. Gruel is watered down, warmed canned food --pate style, not chunky-- that is blended and made into a thin paste. If your puppies are eating the gruel well and seem hungry they can be started on high-quality canned puppy food.
 - Ideally gruel is diluted with puppy milk replacer. Because this is expensive, and KCPP is not always able to provide it, water is used as the alternative. If you would like to purchase milk replacer to use, KCPP recommends Esbilac.
- Weaning should be a gradual process that occurs over several weeks. Introduce the puppies to gruel in a shallow plate. You can begin by placing one puppy by the plate of gruel and hoping for the best - if she starts eating, great! Her littermates will probably copy her and do the same. But without mom around to show them, many puppies do not have a clue about feeding from a saucer. The puppies will walk in it, slide in it, and track it all over. Some puppies may prefer to lick the gruel from your fingers, if this is the case; slowly lower your finger to the plate and hold it to the food.



This way the puppies will learn to eat with their heads bent down. Be patient, sometimes it takes two or three meals before they catch on. If they do not seem interested enough to even sniff your finger, try gently opening the puppies' mouth and rub a little bit of the food on their teeth. Hopefully this will result in the puppy starting to lick your finger. If they're still not getting the idea, you can take a syringe (without a needle) and squirt a small amount of gruel directly into their mouths.

- Bottle feed as needed to keep pups from crying with hunger.
- Be sure that the puppies always have access to fresh water in a low, stable bowl.

Behavior

Begin housebreaking at four weeks of age. This can be done by using a pile of newspapers or training pads in a corner. After each feeding, place the puppy on the papers, for him to go to the bathroom. Be patient! He may not remember to do this every time, or may forget where to find the papers, but he will learn quickly. Be sure to give the puppies lots of praise when they first start using their papers. It is a good idea to confine the puppies to a relatively small space, because the larger the area the puppies have to play in, the more likely they will forget where the papers are. Keep the papers clean and away from their food.

RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 5-6 Weeks

Care

- Feed gruel 4 times a day. Thicken the gruel gradually by reducing the amount of water mixed with it and gradually mix in dry puppy food. Introduce dry food and water, but continue weaning. For reluctant eaters, try mixing some puppy milk replacer into the gruel or tempt the puppy with some meat-flavored human baby food mixed with a bit of water. The familiar formula taste and smell or the baby food's meat flavor is often more appealing to the picky eaters than dog food. Once the puppy accepts the formula-based gruel or baby food, gradually mix in dry puppy food until the puppy has been weaned like the other puppies.
- At 6 weeks, puppies can be bathed to be kept clean but should be blow dried and fed immediately after.

Behavior

At about 5 weeks, puppies can start to roam around the room, under supervision. The strongest, most curious puppy will figure out how to get out of the nest. The others will quickly follow.



RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 6-7 Weeks

Feeding

- By this age the puppies should be eating dry food well. Feed the puppies at least 3-4 times a day. If one puppy appears food-possessive, use a second dish and leave plenty of food out so that everyone can eat at the same time. Although the puppies may not eat much at a single sitting, they usually like to eat at frequent intervals throughout the day.

Behavior

By this time, you have "mini-dogs." They will wash themselves, play games with each other, their toys, and you, and many will come when you call them. Be sure to take them to their papers after meals, during play sessions, and after naps. These are the usual times that puppies need to eliminate.



RAISING PUPPIES WITHOUT A MOM

AGE: 7-8+ Weeks

Feeding

- Offer dry food at least 3 - 4 times a day. Leave down a bowl of water for them to eat and drink at will. Do not feed the puppies table scraps.

Milestones

Puppies are made available for adoption!

At 8 weeks, KCPP foster puppies are made available for adoption on the website, and you will be asked for photos and names if you haven't already submitted them. Puppies go quickly, and you will begin receiving inquiries before long!

Spay/Neuter

Puppies are given a surgery date to be spayed and neutered as long as there is no medical reason to wait. The surgery date may be a few weeks in the future depending on how many other dogs are currently scheduled. Puppies that weigh less than 2 pounds or that are sick will not have surgery until they are well and weigh at least 2 pounds.

Vaccination

Until they have been vaccinated, you should carefully restrict their exposure to any disease. This means checking with visitors to make sure they have not been around any sick dogs and ensuring they always wash or sanitize their hands before handling the puppies.

Puppies that have not been fully vaccinated (usually around 20 weeks) should not be allowed on the ground in any public area where other dogs have been, e.g., pet stores, dog parks, and even neighborhood parks.

Dehydration

Puppies stay hydrated by drinking water and eating canned food. Most puppies will adequately hydrate themselves. You can do a quick elasticity test. Pinch a little skin between your thumb and forefinger on your pup's back. When you release it, it should pop back into place immediately. If you are concerned your puppy is becoming or is dehydrated, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic. Puppies should always have access to clean water.

Hypoglycemia

Puppies will quickly become hypoglycemic if they miss even one meal. Just like a baby, puppies need to eat 3-4 times a day and always have access to fresh food. If puppies become even slightly hypoglycemic they can begin to go downhill very quickly. Signs of hypoglycemia are: wobbliness, listlessness and seizures.

If your puppy has a decreased appetite, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic. If your puppy is not eating, contact the Foster Department. If it's after hours, please call the emergency number at 816-648-0430.

Anemia

Puppies are also susceptible to anemia. Anemia is a loss of red blood cells that, in puppies, is most often caused by an infestation of fleas or intestinal worms. The easiest way to check for anemia is to look for white or very pale gums. Normal puppy gum color is close to salmon pink.

If your puppy's gums are white or grey contact the Foster Department. If it's after hours, please call the emergency number. If you are concerned your puppy's gums are not pink enough, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic; attaching a photo is helpful.

Parvovirus - Signs & Symptoms

Parvovirus is a highly contagious, serious, life-threatening condition that affects the intestinal tract and causes severe vomiting and diarrhea. KCPP has a Parvo ICU and successfully treats the virus. The key to survival is early detection. The signs and symptoms are:

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- Diarrhea in conjunction with one of the above
- Lethargy

If your puppy is experiencing any of these symptoms, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic. If you do not receive a response within 3 hours, contact the Foster Department. If it's after hours, please call the emergency number at 816-648-0430.



Meatball Test

For the most part a healthy puppy will always be excited to eat a treat. As a rule of thumb if a puppy is refusing to eat a meatball of canned food they may be sick. If you are concerned your puppy may be sick with either fever, parvo, parasites, or respiratory infection please offer a meatball of yummy food. If they do not eat it, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic.

Activity

It is important to recognize a lethargic puppy from a tired puppy. Puppies will normally play, play, play then get tired and sleep for a period of time. If your puppy is going through this cycle, that is normal. If your puppy seems lethargic, submit a [medical concern ticket](#) to the Vet Clinic.

Socialization

Socialization is very important. Please refer to these resources: [Puppy Basics](#) and [The Puppy's Rule of 12](#). However, puppies that have not had any vaccinations should not be meeting any people outside the immediate household. If you have any questions about how best to socialize your puppy, please contact the Foster Team.



BOTTLE BABIES

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Supplies Needed



Hand Sanitizer

Use during delivery, and for visitors



Newspapers and/or Puppy Pads

To use when puppies get bigger



Towels/Blankets



Bleach

Add to laundry when washing towels/blankets



Puppy Food



Stuffed Animal for Cuddling



Scale to Weigh Puppies

Ensures puppies are gaining weight



Baby Wipes

Clean up small messes & wipe off puppies after they are a few days old



Warming Disc

Helps keep puppies warm; should be covered with a towel



Thermometer

In case you need to check temperature



Bottles/Syringes



Kiddie Pool/XPen/Crate

Keeps young puppies contained and safe

Feeding with Formula: Formula should be made at a 1:2 ratio regardless of the recommendation. Formula should be warm but not hot. For guidelines on amounts and frequency of feedings, see the feeding chart addendum on the last page.

Note about tube feeding: In most cases, puppies under 4 weeks can be fed with a bottle, but there are cases--like puppies with cleft palate or those who are failing to thrive--where tube feeding may be necessary. The clinic will determine which method is appropriate and show you what to do.

BOTTLE BABIES

Getting Everything Ready

When Bottle Feeding is Needed



Orphaned Puppies (0-4 weeks)

- Mother has passed away or gone missing
- Removed from a mother who rejected or was hurting them

Puppies (0-4 weeks)

- Whose mothers do not have enough milk
- Whose mothers do not have any milk

When Bottle Feeding is NOT Needed

Puppies (4-5 weeks and older)

- Old enough to transition to solid food
- Eating enough on their own
 - Gaining 4oz a week (0.6/day)
 - Puppies should be doubling body weight every 10-14 days and gaining 5-10% body weight/day



Monitor weight gain, may need some supplemental bottle feeding until fully transitioned

Getting Started

There are 9 easy steps before feeding begins. We'll go over each of these steps in more detail but let's start with an overview.

The first step of getting ready to bottle feed your puppy is to weigh him or her. The second step is to figure out the amount of milk to feed and how often using the puppy version of the Maddie's Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart. The next steps are to select the milk replacer and an appropriate sized bottle and nipple, and then prepare the nipple for use, and then mix, measure out, and warm the milk replacer; and warm your puppy.



Weigh Your Puppy

The first step in the bottle feeding process is to weigh your foster puppy. You do not need to do this before every feeding, once daily is enough. For smaller puppies, this can be done with a baby scale, a postage scale, or a kitchen scale.



Refer to Maddie's Bottle Feeding & Stomach Capacity Chart

The first step in the bottle feeding process is to weigh your foster puppy. You do not need to do this before every feeding, once daily is enough. This can be done with a baby scale, a postage scale, or a kitchen scale. For larger puppies, a bathroom scale will be needed. Weigh yourself on the bathroom scale while holding your puppy, then weigh just yourself, then subtract your weight from that of both you and your puppy. This will give you the puppy's weight. This method cannot be accurately used for foster pets weighing less than 2lbs.

Once you have a weight on your foster puppy, look at the puppy version of the Maddie's Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart to figure out how much milk your foster puppy should be getting per day, how often to feed, and how much milk you should be giving per feeding.

These charts are only meant to be used as a guideline to help avoid overfeeding or underfeeding, adjustments may be needed for your individual foster puppy based on how he or she is doing.

On the first day of bottle feeding, it is recommended to only feed half of the amount listed on the bottle feeding chart. This will give your puppy's digestive system time to adjust to the milk replacer, and for the stomach to adapt to the volume of milk being fed.

Overfeeding can cause diarrhea and vomiting. It can also cause inhalation, or aspiration, of the milk into the lungs, because the stomach can only hold so much milk before it starts coming back up the throat and into the mouth. This is when the milk can accidentally be inhaled. Overfeeding can also cause gas build up in the stomach and intestines, which results in your puppy having a distended belly and an upset stomach. Underfeeding can cause weight loss or a lack of weight gain in puppies. This is why it is so important to weigh them daily.

Select Milk Replacer

The next step is to select which milk replacer you are going to use. Commercial puppy milk replacer should be obtained as soon as possible, as it more closely matches the mother's milk nutritionally. Commercial milk replacer comes in liquid form in a can, which is more expensive, and in powder form, which needs to be mixed with water to make a liquid. Esbilac® for puppy milk replacer is a very good choice.





Select Bottle & Nipple Type

Now it is time to find an appropriate sized bottle and nipple to use. Most pet stores and farm supply stores have pet nursing bottles that come in 2 oz. or 4 oz. sizes. You should use the 4 oz. bottle and nipple for small to medium breed puppies. Human baby bottles that are angled and vented work best for large breed puppies such as Labradors, Mastiffs, and Pit Bulls.

Some bottle babies can be picky and you may need to try several different types and brands of bottles and nipples to see what they like.

Use caution if using larger nipples for smaller puppies. If they happen to chew off part of the tip of the nipple and swallow it, larger nipples are more likely to cause an obstruction of the intestines.

The nipple's tip should not extend past the middle of your puppy's tongue. Avoid nipples that are too long. If the tip of the nipple is too far back in the mouth, the milk may be inhaled, aka aspirated, down the trachea and into the lungs instead of going down the esophagus into the stomach.

Feeding with a syringe or dropper should be avoided, because you may accidentally put more milk into your puppy's mouth than he or she can swallow, which could also cause aspiration of the milk.

If the milk is aspirated, you may see coughing that lasts for more than a few minutes and/or difficult or labored breathing. This is an emergency, and you should call your foster coordinator immediately.

Prepare the Nipple

The nipples on human baby bottles come with holes already in the tips, but the nipples on pet nursing bottles do not. They need appropriate sized holes cut in the tips.

For the 4 oz. nipples, you can cut an "X" shape in the tip of the nipple. Small scissors such as embroidery scissors or cuticle scissors work well, especially for the smaller nipples. Avoid cutting too far down on the tip of the nipple, this can make the hole too big.

After you have made a hole in the nipple, you need to check that it is not too big or too small.

Hold the nursing bottle upside down. The hole in the nipple should be large enough to allow a drop of milk to slowly form. The milk should drip out at a rate of 1-2 drops per second with a gentle squeeze of the bottle.



Prepare the Nipple (cont.)

Even if you have previously cut a hole in the tip of the nipple, you should still check it before each use. Sometimes the rubber will stick after cleaning, so make sure to unstick the rubber openings when preparing the bottle by dripping a few drops of milk out before feeding. It is also possible for the rubber to tear with vigorous suckling or during the cleaning process, which could enlarge the hole in the nipple. If the hole is too big, the milk will flow out too fast, potentially causing your puppy to aspirate the milk. If the hole is too small, it will be very difficult for your puppy to suckle milk out of the bottle. Milk will not come out of the bottle unless it is firmly squeezed, which should be avoided. The milk can accidentally come out too fast and cause your puppy to aspirate the milk.



Mix the Milk Replacer

Most powdered puppy milk replacers are mixed up by adding 1 part powder to 2 parts water. Be sure to read the mixing directions on the label of the powdered milk replacer that you are using. You can mix the milk replacer with Pedialyte® instead of water and add in a pinch of the probiotic powder FortiFlora® for the first few feedings to help your puppy's digestive system adjust to the milk replacer.

A temporary 50:50 dilution of milk replacer is sometimes needed. To make a 50:50 dilution of milk replacer, you either take the liquid milk replacer that comes in a can or the powdered milk replacer that you have already mixed up, and you add an equal part of that milk replacer to an equal part of water or Pedialyte®.

If milk replacer is too concentrated, it can cause diarrhea, vomiting, and constipation. It can also cause gas formation in the stomach and intestines, which leads to a distended belly and an upset stomach.

If milk replacer is too dilute, it can cause weight loss or lack of weight gain, because your kitten or puppy is not getting enough nutrition.



Measure Out the Milk Replacer Needed

Carefully measuring out the milk replacer needed for one feeding helps reduce wasted milk replacer. Milk that has already been warmed up or in a bottle that has touched a puppy's mouth must be discarded. Warm milk or milk that has been contaminated with bacteria from saliva is a good breeding ground for unwanted bacteria.

A clean syringe is a good choice for measuring out the milk replacer.



Warm the Milk Replacer

Avoid warming the milk up in the microwave, this can lead to overheating or uneven heating. Instead, warm the milk by placing it in a warm water bath. You can warm the water bath in the microwave, then soak the milk in the water bath for a few minutes, or however long it takes to warm the milk up to about 95-100 F. Gently swirl the milk in the container every few minutes to warm it all the way through, otherwise the center may still be cold. Avoid shaking the milk in the container, this causes bubbles to form, and you do not want your kitten or puppy to swallow air while nursing.

The nipples can be stiff on some bottles. You can also put the nipple in the warm water bath to soften it.

Make sure that the milk is neither too hot nor too cold by testing a few drops on the inside of your wrist before feeding. Milk that is too hot can burn your puppy's mouth and throat. Milk that is too cold can cause chilling of your puppy, which causes the heart rate and digestion to slow down. The digestion slowing down can cause vomiting, and inhalation, aka aspiration, of milk into the lungs. It can also cause gas formation in the stomach and intestines, which leads to a distended belly and an upset stomach.



Warm Your Puppy

As we already explained, a puppy who is chilled can have digestion that is slowed down, which can cause vomiting, aspiration of milk into the lungs, and gas formation in the stomach and intestines. Puppies who are chilled also tend to be less responsive and not interested in nursing. You may notice that they are crying continuously.

Puppies who are chilled must be warmed up slowly, so that they do not go into shock. To warm your puppy, use a Snuggle Safe® disc, or heating pad with the temperature set on low.

Be sure to wrap the heat source in a towel or blanket to slow down warming, so your puppy does not get burned. If your puppy is very cold with a body temperature less than 95 degrees Fahrenheit, the warming process should happen slowly over a 30 minute to 2 hour time period, with a body temperature increase of approximately 2 degrees Fahrenheit per hour.

BOTTLE BABIES

From Feeding to Clean Up

We have finished covering all the steps in the Getting Everything Ready section. Now we are going to talk about bottle feeding steps from Feeding to Clean Up. First of all, you will need to properly position your puppy, then you can start doing the fun stuff: feeding the baby! After that is burping your puppy and stimulating him or her to pee and poop. The last steps are to refrigerate leftover milk and to clean and sterilize the bottle and nipple.



Properly Position Your Puppy

Puppies who are being bottle fed should not be positioned on their backs like human babies who are being bottle fed, despite the numerous photos and videos on the internet that show that! A puppy being bottle fed should be held with his or her feet facing down to the ground. This is called a sternal position. The head and neck should be stretched upward and forward, like the position your puppy would naturally be in while nursing from his or her mother. Do not allow the puppy to extend his or her neck too far back. It is fine for the puppy to place his or her front paws on the bottle or on your hands.

Improper positioning of your puppy during bottle feeding can result in aspiration of the milk. It can also cause your puppy to swallow air while nursing from the bottle, which can cause gas build up in the stomach and intestines, leading to a distended belly and an upset stomach.



Feed Your Puppy

Allow a drop of milk to drip onto your puppy's tongue. He or she should latch on quickly, but it may take a few attempts before he or she figures it out. **Do not squeeze the bottle and stream milk into your kitten's or puppy's mouth**, this may cause him or her to aspirate the milk. Go slowly, allowing your puppy time to breathe and swallow. It may take up to 30 minutes for him or her to nurse.

Swallowing should take place every 2-3 times your puppy sucks on the nipple. Check for swallowing by watching and/or gently feeling the throat for movement. If your puppy is not swallowing, he or she is at risk of aspirating the milk and you should stop to give him or her time to swallow. If your puppy is swallowing too fast and/or has milk coming out of his or her nose, the hole in the nipple is probably too big and the milk is coming out of the nipple too fast.

Care should be taken to ensure that your puppy does not swallow air. This can happen when he or she is suckling too fast, is in an improper feeding position, or



Feed Your Puppy (cont.)

when air bubbles get into the nipple. When your puppy has a strong suckle, be sure that he or she does not chew the nipple off while nursing. If swallowed, a piece of nipple can obstruct the intestines.

Many puppies will get very vigorous with their front legs and accidentally knock the bottle out of their mouths. The key is to hold your puppy gently and move with him or her as necessary. Don't hold your puppy too tightly.



Burp Your Puppy

Just like human babies, puppies need to be burped after bottle feeding.

Hold your puppy with his or her tummy against your shoulder or the palm of your hand, and then gently pat or rub his or her back. For very young puppies, who are more delicate, softly rubbing the back is recommended over patting.

If your puppy does not burp, move on to the next step, and try again later.



Stimulate Your Puppy to Pee and Poop

Puppies cannot pee and poop by themselves until they are about 3-4 weeks old. Those who have a mother will be stimulated to pee and poop when she is grooming them and licking their rear ends. So, with puppies who do not have a mother, we must stimulate them to pee and poop by rubbing a warm wet cotton square on their bottoms.



Refrigerate Leftover Milk Replacer

Milk replacer must be refrigerated between uses. Milk replacer should be stored in a clean container with a cover in the refrigerator for no longer than 24 hours. This includes opened cans of liquid milk replacer that do not require mixing powder with water.

Throw out any milk replacer that is left out at room temperature for longer than 1 hour, has been previously warmed up, or has been contaminated with saliva from your puppy.

Milk replacer is an excellent breeding ground for unwanted bacteria. Sour milk can cause diarrhea, vomiting, and infection.




Clean and Sterilize the Bottle and Nipple

The next step is to clean and sterilize the bottle and nipple for the next use. Wash the bottle and nipple with dish soap and warm water. Then sterilize the bottle and nipple by boiling them in water for 10 minutes. This should be done before the first use and in between litters, but this does not have to be done between every feeding within the same litter. Once every 24-48 hours should be sufficient in that case.

After they are sterilized, set the bottle and nipple on a clean towel to dry. Be sure to tap out the water droplets from the inside of the nipple and bottle. The cleaning and disinfecting step is important because unclean equipment is a source of bacterial growth and can cause diarrhea, vomiting, and infection.

MEDICAL CARE



Seeing a very young puppy in pain or sick can be scary, especially if you are unsure whether the problem is an emergency or not. It is important to be aware of puppy survival rates, and to understand what the most common emergencies are in puppies between 0-4 weeks of age. You should know when to seek emergency veterinary care for puppies between 0-4 weeks of age, and what you can do to help them until emergency veterinary care can be obtained.

Puppy Survival Rates

- It is upsetting when puppies die despite our best efforts. It is important to understand puppy survival rates and to be prepared for the possibility that not all puppies will survive, especially if they are between 0-4 weeks of age.
- Puppies under 12 weeks of age have been reported to have high mortality rates, ranging from 15% to 40%.
- The biggest determinants of natural puppy loss are low birth weight and poor growth rates. One study showed that 60% of low birth weight kittens failed to survive to weaning.
- Delay in seeking emergency veterinary care greatly reduces the chance of survival of puppies.

Common Puppy Emergencies (0-4 weeks)

Common emergencies in puppies who are 5 weeks of age or older are not the same as common emergencies in puppies who are between 0-4 weeks of age. For example, puppies are more likely to swallow foreign objects and start choking, to have an accident and break a leg, to cut themselves on something and start bleeding, or to eat something toxic.

The most common emergency in puppies between 0-4 weeks of age is “Fading Syndrome,” also known as “Fading Puppy Syndrome.” It happens when puppies who are between 0-4 weeks of age rapidly decline in health and die, often for no apparent reason.

A blood infection is the most common cause of “Fading Syndrome.” Orphaned puppies often do not receive their mother’s first milk (colostrum), which contains protective antibodies against infection. This causes the orphan puppies to be more susceptible to infections including upper respiratory infections, bacterial infections acquired through the umbilical stump, and viral infections. Common viral infections are canine parvovirus and canine herpesvirus in puppies.

Other causes of “Fading Syndrome” include maternal neglect, improper nutrition, dehydration, low body temperature, low blood sugar, birth defects, and intestinal parasites.

Another common emergency in puppies between 0-4 weeks of age is severe flea infestation that causes blood loss, which can be fatal.

Common Puppy Emergency Symptoms (0-4 weeks)

Monitoring of puppies is critical for early detection of health problems and assessing the effectiveness of medical treatment. Monitoring includes daily tracking of body weight, appetite and physical activity, pooping and peeing, and any signs of illness.

Daily monitoring of your foster puppies will help you recognize what is normal in your puppies, so that you are better able to detect the abnormal.

The most common emergency symptoms in kittens and puppies between 0-4 weeks of age include:

- **Difficult or labored breathing:** open mouth breathing, gasping for air, very noisy or raspy breathing, very fast breathing, abdomen moving more than chest in an effort to breathe.
- **Severe lethargy:** barely moving, difficulty holding head up, lying flat out, not responsive.
- **Fever or low body temperature:** The normal body temperature of a puppy varies by age. See the Maddie's® Kitten and Puppy (0-4 weeks) Temperature Chart.
- **Dehydration:** For older puppies, as well as adult dogs, the hydration status is often checked by picking up the skin between the shoulder blades and then letting it drop. If the skin snaps back quickly, it is an indication that the pet is probably well hydrated. However, the skin tent of very young puppies is unreliable because their skin has an increased water content and a decreased fat content compared to adults. Because of very young puppies can be very dehydrated and still not have a skin tent. A more reliable way to determine the hydration status of a puppy who is 0-4 weeks of age is to rub your finger on his or her gums. If the gums feel sticky, your puppy is most likely dehydrated. If the gums feel slippery and moist, it is likely that he or she is well hydrated, although it is not a guarantee. Very young puppies may not have sticky gums until they are very severely dehydrated. Another indicator of hydration status for very young puppies is the color of their urine. They have an immature kidney function, so their pee is normally colorless and clear. So, when they are dehydrated, you may notice that the pee is darker yellow in color. Regardless of whether you are seeing signs of dehydration, you should assume that a very young foster puppy is dehydrated if he or she has diarrhea, vomiting, or a lack of liquid intake from not nursing.
- **Abnormal gum color:** blue or grey indicates lack of oxygen, dark red may indicate a blood infection, white indicates blood loss, yellow indicates a liver problem or a blood disorder.
- **Seizures:** muscle twitching or jerking of limbs, drooling, disorientation. In very young puppies, seizures are most commonly associated with low blood sugar.
- **Not nursing or not getting enough milk:** Signs that a puppy is not nursing or is not getting enough milk include: crying, crawling away from the mother (if there is one), harmful non-productive suckling on a littermate, weight loss, or lack of weight gain. The physical condition of puppies who are between 0-4 weeks of age can deteriorate very quickly, compared to older puppies, if they go for more than 6 hours without any nutrition. Their blood sugar can also become dangerously low, causing them to have seizures. Puppies who are not nursing or not getting enough milk and are between 0-4 weeks of age may need tube feeding to survive. Do not attempt tube feeding without proper veterinary training on how to do so.





- Pain: can be extremely hard to recognize in a puppy who is between 0-4 weeks of age and still undergoing physical and behavioral development. Crying is one way that a puppy between 0-4 weeks of age could indicate that he or she is painful, but keep in mind it could also indicate that he or she is not getting enough milk and is hungry.
- These common emergency symptoms are indications to seek veterinary emergency care immediately, but be aware that this is not a complete list of every emergency symptom you might see in a puppy between 0-4 weeks of age. If you are concerned, or if you are not sure whether it is an emergency, *it is always better to be safe than sorry and contact your foster coordinator.*

What You Can Do Until Emergency Veterinary Care is Obtained

If your puppy has difficult or labored breathing, ensure a clear airway. Gently clean any nasal discharge off the nostrils with soft cotton squares or a soft wash cloth moistened with warm water. If you have an oxygen tank available, provide supplemental oxygen by holding the tube in front of your puppy's nose.

If your puppy has a low body temperature, initiate slow warming efforts. Warming up your puppy too fast can cause him or her to go into shock. A hot water bottle, Snuggle Safe® Disc, or heating pad with the temperature set on low.

If your puppy is not eating/nursing or seems lethargic, it is possible that he or she has low blood sugar. Rub white corn syrup on your puppy's gums with a cotton swab to bring the blood sugar up. If you do not have any white corn syrup, maple syrup can be used.

Routine Vet Check Ups & Vaccines

Vet appointments and vaccine schedules will vary based on the age of your puppies and when they arrived at the shelter. However, a typical vaccine schedule for puppies in foster looks like this:

- 2** Weeks *Dewormer (to be picked up through the foster department)*
- 4** Weeks *DA2PPV and Bordetella Vaccines completed by the Foster Department*
- 6** Weeks *DA2PPV and Bordetella Vaccines completed by the Foster Department*
- 8** Weeks *Drop off at shelter for surgery (spay/neuter) and will received DA2PP & Bordetella Vaccines*

A photograph showing several puppies of various breeds (including Boxers and Pit Bulls) crowded together in a black wire crate. They are looking out from behind the bars. A dark teal banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word "BEHAVIOR" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

BEHAVIOR

Socializing and exposing your puppy to everyday sights and sounds is extremely important. A puppy that leads a secluded life may grow up to be a fearful adult dog. It's tricky because you don't want to expose your young puppy to other dogs and areas that carry diseases before they are fully vaccinated. There are, however, things you can do to help your puppy before and after they've completed their series of vaccinations which typically happens around 5 months of age.

Meeting People

Ask friends/family to meet your new puppy. If your puppy seems shy/timid around new people, give your friend some treats and ask them to drop the treats on the ground for the puppy to eat. They can gradually work toward offering treats from their hands, but take it slow if the puppy seems nervous about the new person. Never let anyone force their attention on your puppy as this only heightens their fear of strangers.

Once your puppy is fully vaccinated you can start to take him/her out to public places that don't have a lot of dog traffic, such as a walk in your neighborhood. Keep your puppy away from places like dog parks, pet stores, and other popular dog places until they are fully vaccinated as these locations put your puppy at higher risk of contracting a contagious disease. If your puppy seems extremely timid around new people please let us know so we can help you with further training tips.

Handling/Grooming

Get your puppy used to human handling. Touch their feet, ears, tail, etc. Pick them up. Brush them with a dog brush. Getting your puppy comfortable with this type of handling will help tremendously when it's time to go to the vet or have their nails trimmed. If your puppy seems nervous about this type of handling, have some treats on hand and feed your puppy treats while handling them so they associate the handling with good things. You can smear a thin layer of peanut butter on a bully stick or something similar and handle your puppy while he/she is licking the peanut butter. This peanut butter trick also can work during bath time.

Special Note for KCPP Fosters: If you are fostering a puppy please take note of additional restrictions regarding socialization, specifically with regard to meeting other dogs (below). Please refer to the [Dog Foster Handbook](#) for clarification about rules and restrictions with your foster dog.

Meeting Dogs

Dog-dog socialization is important! Before your puppy is fully vaccinated you are somewhat limited where you can bring your puppy (no dog parks!). As an alternative, once your puppy is at least 4 months old, you can ask a friend to bring over their dog-social dog for a play date. Make sure your friend's dog is puppy-friendly as not all dogs enjoy the company of puppies. You do not want your puppy to have a negative experience with other dogs so be very mindful about his/her first experiences with other dogs and always supervise the interactions. For adopted puppies who are fully vaccinated, puppy classes that include puppy free-play are great because they are supervised as well as offer a more sanitary place for puppies to play (this is a very different environment than a dog park).



Introducing New Sights/Sounds

Expose your puppy to different sounds and objects both within your home and outside. You may have to start at low levels or from a distance. Using treats just as you did with new people is helpful. If your puppy seems fearful of sounds like thunder, you can use an app on your phone to play the sound while you adjust the volume. Always start at a level where your puppy shows zero fear and only work very gradually at increasing the volume/distance. If your puppy starts to show fear, back off the volume, give him/her lots of treats then try again later. This may be a slow acclimation process but it's worth it. When your puppy is old enough, bring treats along and walk him/her past a playground where children are having fun. You don't need to let a bunch of children pet your puppy if he/she seems fearful, but get your puppy used to the sounds of children playing, trucks passing, garbage trucks working, etc.

If your puppy is struggling with any of these socialization/handling exercises please let us know so we can work with you on a plan specific to your puppy.

House/Potty Training

Puppies can start house training at about 3 months of age but it will likely take a couple of months before they are reliably giving you signals that they need to go outside to potty. If your puppy is already close to 6 months and has been living in the shelter they are just starting potty-training and, just like a younger pup, it could take a couple of months. There are some key points to keep in mind during this process that are almost universally applicable:

Holding It.

Every dog has a time limit. Puppies under six months are typically unable to hold it in for more than a few hours. Prepare for this! Come home during your lunch break, hire a dog sitter or walker to come once or twice a day while you're at work, or enroll your puppy in daycare.

Crate Training

Puppies generally don't want to eliminate next to their food or their bed. The rest of your home is "fair game". This is where crate-training your puppy can come in really handy. If you don't want to use a crate, find an alternative way to confine your puppy (a small bathroom with a baby gate in the doorway so they can see out but not get out can work well). When you are not home, when you are asleep, or when you can't be watching over your puppy, put him in his crate or confined area.

Establish a Schedule

Setting up a schedule your puppy can rely on will help him learn faster. Take your puppy out first thing in the morning, within 20 minutes of eating/drinking, after an indoor play session with you, as soon as they wake from a nap, and right before bed. More/frequent outings during the day will help your puppy hold it longer at night, however you should expect to get up in the middle of the night as most puppies cannot hold it all night long.

Productive Outings

Give your puppy plenty of time to potty by staying with them outside for at least 15 mins, if necessary. Give your pup lots of praise and treats every time they potty outside. Make them think it's the best thing they have ever done! If you've been outside with your puppy for 15 mins and they don't potty but it's been 2 hours since their last time peeing, return inside but put your puppy in their crate (or confined area) for 10 minutes, then take them outside again. Repeat the outside/crate process until they have pottied outside, at which time they can have supervised time outside the crate with you (a double reward).



Reward Only!

It's vital to successful housetraining that you NEVER scold your pup for going potty inside, even—especially—when you catch them in the act. More often than not, the dog won't understand that you are scolding them for going inside. They are more likely to think you are scolding them for going at all, and as a result they will want to hide from you to do their business. Instead your focus should be on praising and treating every time the pup goes outside. If your pup is learning for the first time or is struggling with learning outside from in, you can amp up the reward by “jackpotting” even a little outdoor tinkle with a BUNCH of treats and praise (or toys, or whatever your pup thinks is a great reward).

Prevention & Redirection

While in the process of housetraining, make sure you have eyes on your pup at all times. Keep a lightweight leash attached to their collar (what we call a “drag leash”) so that, the second they start to go, you can lightly clap your hands to interrupt them (don't yell or frighten your pup) then quickly pick up the end of the leash and walk them outside. Remain neutral until they're outside, and as soon as they start to finish their business out there you can reward! If you are preoccupied with other tasks while inside, limit their access to your home. Use a crate or exercise pen to keep them from wandering around unsupervised.

Clean Up Accidents

Dogs tend to want to potty where they smell themselves or other dogs so it's important to thoroughly clean up any accidents. Use an enzyme-based cleaner to completely eliminate the smell. Simple Solution and Nature's Miracle are 2 such brands. [This link](#) provides some useful information on cleaning urine odors and stains.

A note about pee-pads: Pee pads can work against your efforts of teaching your puppy NOT to potty inside. However, sometimes it's necessary to use these pads. If you do, keep them to a confined area (like in their exercise pen) or place them near the door to help with the transition once you are ready to eliminate the use of pee pads.

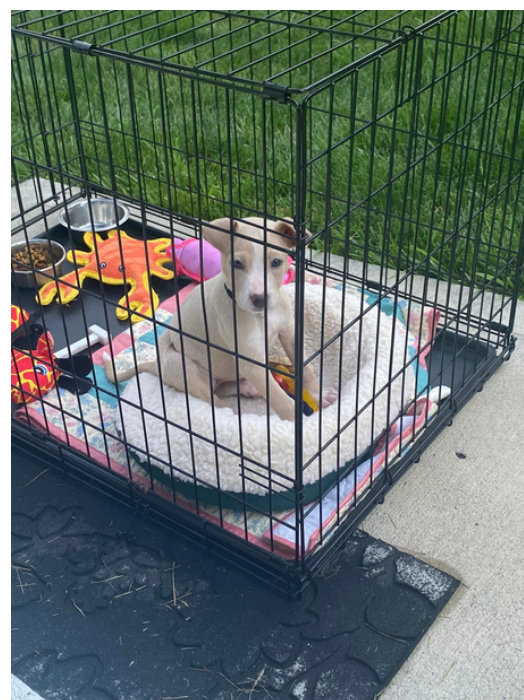
If you're having difficulty with excessive urination or bowel movements, contact your vet to rule out possible medical causes!

Crate Training

Successful crate training opens up a lot of options for you and your dog, both within obedience and behavior training as well as life in general. A dog properly acclimated to the crate is going to be far less stressed during travel, boarding, or overnight stays at the vet. Crating can prevent destructive chewing and assist in potty training. The structure provided by crating can also reduce minor separation anxiety. The most fundamental and vital thing to remember about crate training is the crate is never a punishment. The crate needs to be a comfortable and pleasant space for your dog. Some puppies accept the crate in no time at all however some puppies are a bit more fearful in the crate and need a slower acclimation process.

The Crate

Choose a crate that is big enough for your pup to stand up and easily turn around. Puppies in the process of house-training should not have much more room than that. If you want to purchase a larger crate to accommodate your growing puppy, use a divider until they have grown into the larger crate. Some crates come with a wire divider-panel, or you can stuff an inexpensive large pillow/cushion in the back of the crate while your puppy is still small, then remove it when they grow. Plastic and metal wire crates each have their pros and cons, but the choice largely comes down to preference (either the dog's or the human's). Some dogs like the closed-in plastic crates while others do better with more visibility in wire crates. Go with what works best for you and your pup!



Introducing the Crate

Encourage your puppy to investigate the crate. Toss treats or a favorite toy in to begin the positive association. Work on this until your puppy goes in and out of the crate without displaying any nervous body language. This could take a few minutes or several days. Make the crate as cozy and comfortable as possible for your puppy with a blanket or towel and some chew toys. Include something with your scent on it like an old, unwashed t-shirt or pillowcase.

Location

Generally speaking, the crate should be placed in a high traffic area of the home, or where the pup is used to spending time (most likely around you or other people in the home). At night you may want to move the crate into your bedroom and possibly right next to your bed so your puppy can hear your breathing and/or see you at night. If your puppy whines in the crate at night and you know they don't have to potty, try to ignore them or at least wait for a moment of quiet before attending to them. Of course, if it's potty time take them out right away, let them potty outside and then put them right back into the crate. Do not allow play time in the middle of the night.

Feeding Time

Food is an excellent training aid. Even if your dog isn't highly food motivated, you can still use this basic necessity to your advantage. Start feeding your puppy in the crate. Try placing the food bowl at the back of the crate but leave the crate door open. Let your puppy enter/exit at his will. If your puppy is showing too much fear of the crate then begin by setting the bowl in front of the crate. Over the next several days (or longer, depending on the dog's comfort level) gradually move the bowl further into the crate. Let your puppy eat a few meals in the crate and then work on closing the crate door when he is fully in the crate and seems relaxed. Once they've reached this point, you can begin closing the door while they're eating.

At first, open the door once they've finished. As you progress, start taking a pause between their last bite and opening the gate. Lengthen this pause over several mealtimes until they can stay in the crate calmly for up to ten minutes after eating. If at any point they begin to bark or cry or paw at the gate, DO NOT open the gate until they have stopped. Otherwise they will think complaining makes the gate open!

Adding Time

Start crating your puppy outside of mealtimes. In the beginning, they should be able to see you while in the crate. Toss some treats or a toy in the crate and start giving a name to the act of going into the crate (such as "crate" or "kennel"). Wait a minute or two (walk across the room, pick up toys, sit on the couch—this doesn't have to be while you are standing right in front of the crate, so long as your pup can see you) and then let them out. Do this multiple times throughout the day and slowly increase the amount of time. Once they can relax quietly in the crate for up to thirty minutes (this could take several days) start leaving the room. Once you've worked up to at least thirty minutes of calm, quiet crate time with no one in the room, you can start leaving the home for short periods of time with your pup crated.

Departures and Arrivals

No matter how much we want to coo over our pups when we leave and how we want to match their excitement when we come home, it's important we keep our comings and goings calm and low-key. You want to reinforce the idea that your being gone was no big deal. When you do let your dog out of the crate, make sure they don't have a chance to shove past your hand the second the gate is unlatched. Block the exit with your body and the gate until you give a release cue (e.g. "free").

Exercise

Puppies have lots of energy but they also sleep a lot. Give your puppy plenty of exercise before they go in the crate, this will help them relax/sleep while in the crate. Along with physical exercise, you can give your puppy something to chew on (and work their mouths) like a Kong lined with some peanut butter or pumpkin puree. Careful that you don't give your puppy too much to eat if you're going to be gone for a long time as you don't want your puppy to have to potty in his crate.

Crate Options

Ideally, we don't want to crate a dog for longer than they're used to. Realistically, many of us have full time jobs away from home and still want to prevent destructive behaviors and potty messes all over the place. There are ways to work around this reality without ruining our progress with the crate. You can keep your pup in a bathroom or laundry room where they can't get into anything that might hurt them. Using a baby gate in the doorway allows the puppy to see out but not get out. Give them some old towels or blankets to sleep on, but make sure things like trash cans and toilet paper are out of reach. Another option is to buy a plastic playpen or metal exercise pen to keep them contained in a specific area of the house. (Click this link for an example of an "x-pen").



Chewing

Dogs interact with the world with their mouths. They don't have hands and opposable thumbs like us. Using their mouths is how they eat, play, explore, pick things up, etc. Not only is chewing natural for dogs, but it has health benefits as well (so long as they're chewing the right things). Then how do we make sure they don't chew what they shouldn't?

Management

Your dog can't chew on what it can't reach. Keep shoes, kids' toys, remotes, and other curious and chewable items out of your dog's reach. For items you can't put away, like furniture or baseboards, try a product called Bitter Apple spray, which you can find in most pet stores.

If you need to cook dinner, make a phone call, or get involved in some other task that takes your attention away from your dog, have a dog-proof area. This can be a penned-off area or even the dog's crate. It's not a punishment, so make sure your dog has plenty of positive things to keep them occupied. (One of the many benefits of crate training is to prevent destructive behaviors like chewing). You can also tether your puppy to you by clipping on his leash and hooking it to your waist, so you can keep an eye on your puppy.

Redirect

We want to teach our puppies what they ARE allowed to chew on, not just the don'ts. If you catch your dog chewing on something they shouldn't, interrupt them with a neutral (non-praise, but also non-punishment) noise that gets their attention. A mild "eh eh" or "no" or a light clap of your hands work well. Offer them an appropriate toy or chew instead as a means of redirecting the chewing behavior. While your dog is in the process of learning these dos and don'ts, offer lots of praise any time your dog picks up something they are allowed to chew.

Exercise

There is an adage that "a tired dog is a good dog". Sometimes a dog chews for no other reason than they are bored (as one might chew on the cap of a pen in a dull meeting). It's important to make sure your dog has not only plenty of physical stimulation, but mental stimulation as well. Mental stimulation can include training games (learning sit, down, shake, etc.), puzzle toys, or even a kong stuffed with tasty treats (peanut butter, pumpkin puree, and plain yogurt are a few ideas). When you've had enough play time with your puppy but he/she still has tons of energy, give them a puzzle toy that takes them 15 minutes to complete to help tire them out and give you some peace. Always monitor what you give your puppy to assure they aren't able to chew off and swallow pieces that may be a choking hazard or cause an obstruction. Here is a [link](#) to some enrichment ideas.



Mouthing/Play Biting

Puppies play with their mouths. If you've ever seen puppies play together, it's all mouth-on-mouth and biting each other's ears, paws, etc. Your puppy likely wants to play with you in just the same way. While it's understandable, those puppy teeth are sharp and it hurts! It's up to us humans to teach them that doing so is not acceptable when engaging with people. Here's how:

Redirect

As with chewing, you want to teach your dog what IS allowed. So always have toys nearby. When it comes to mild mouthing, simply engage them with a toy and continue playtime. You will probably have to repeat this several times even within the same stretch of playtime to help your dog understand. Be persistent and consistent.

Remove All Attention

If your pup isn't responding after several attempts to redirect, and/or the mouthing/biting become more intense stop play and immediately walk away. Don't talk to them further and don't interact with them in any way. Simply remove yourself from them. To your pup, suddenly the game has stopped. With enough repetitions, they'll come to understand that being mouthy is what causes the fun to go away. **Note:** yelling or yelping when your puppy mouths/bites you may excite your puppy even more, the opposite of what you want.

Reward Positive Behavior

Remember that your puppy doesn't know what you want until you teach them. If you only correct the bad behavior they are left wondering what to do. Make sure you reward your puppy for grabbing a toy instead of your hand by praising and playing with him/her. If you've just left your puppy alone for mouthing on you and he/she follows you in a calm manner, take the time to reward this calm approach with praise and playtime. At first this may mean a lot of on/off of your attention but keep it up and your puppy will soon learn how to get what he wants (which is your attention). Note: ignoring is also a great tactic for attention-seeking barking, but be sure to reward when your pup is being quiet and calm.

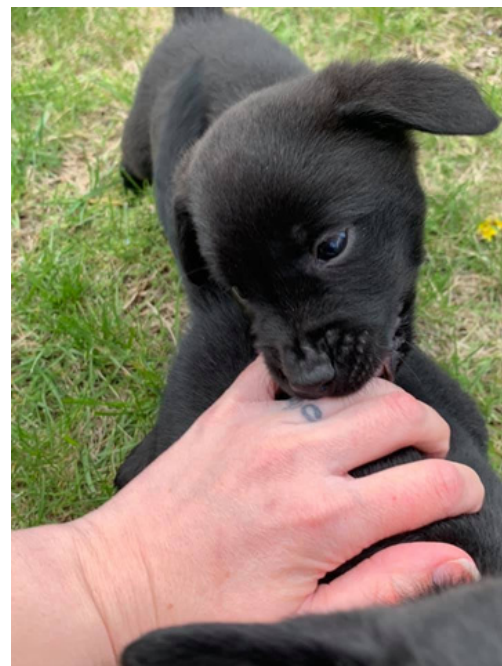
Jumping Up

Puppy jumping is usually greeted with enthusiasm and affection but when your puppy grows up, it's no longer fun to have them jump on you or others. Now is the time to teach your puppy that it's not ok to jump on people.

Never reward any dog for jumping. In fact, we want to engage them as little as possible. Our natural inclination is to tell them "no" and push them away but even a stern "no" or "eh eh" is a form of attention and many dogs consider pushing them away to be a form of play so resist the urge to do that. Here are a few ways to effectively deter jumping behavior:

Teach an Incompatible Behavior

A dog can't jump if they're expected to do something that requires all four paws on the ground (what we call "four on the floor"). Teach your puppy to "sit". If your dog wants your attention, they must sit for it.



Remove All Attention

The moment your puppy jumps on you turn your attention off of them and walk away. Again, this means not even scolding them. Stand up and either a) turn around and walk away, or b) walk “through” (or past) them and keep walking. Your puppy should only be getting your attention when they have all “four on the floor”.

Reward Positive Behavior

If your puppy approaches you without jumping up, be sure to reward that with praise and affection. If your puppy knows “sit”, give them that command and give tons of praise/affection for knowing how to “sit”. If your puppy starts to jump up, turn and walk away again. Your puppy may be a bit confused at first but they will soon figure out that the only way to get your attention is to have “four on the floor”. As with all puppy training, consistency is key so everyone in the family (and your friends) must follow this same training technique.

With enough repetition of these steps, your puppy will pick up on the pattern: “four on the floor” = attention; jumping = no attention. To puppies, it’s really that simple. As your dog begins to show an understanding and offers a sit in a situation where they would usually jump, lavish them with praise and other rewards.

Continued Support

Raising and teaching puppies takes patience and time plus some trial and error to figure out what works best for you and your pup. We encourage you to check out the GoodPup flyer if you would like personalized one-on-one training from a private trainer. The first week is free and includes an hour long virtual session plus you can text with your trainer throughout the day as questions arise.

If you choose to sign up for this service after the one week free trial, you will receive a 20% discount and a donation will be made to KCPP in honor of your pup!

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GoodPup will make a donation to KC Pet Project for every new training customer

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Why train with GoodPup

- Work 1-on 1 with a certified trainer
- Chat in whenever you need help
- Train at home over video chat
- No scheduling hassle
- Build a stronger bond with your dog

Puppy Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart

Puppy Weight (lbs, oz)	Puppy Weight (grams)	Daily Caloric Requirement*	Amount of Formula Per Day (ml)**	Amount Per Feeding (ml)*	Approximate Number of Feedings Per Day***
2 oz	57 g	11 kcal	13 ml	2 ml	6
4 oz	113 g	23 kcal	25 ml	5 ml	6
6 oz	170 g	34 kcal	38 ml	7 ml	6
8 oz	227 g	45 kcal	50 ml	9 ml	6
10 oz	284 g	57 kcal	63 ml	11 ml	6
12 oz	340 g	68 kcal	76 ml	14 ml	6
14 oz	397 g	79 kcal	88 ml	16 ml	6
16 oz (1 lb)	454 g	91 kcal	101 ml	18 ml	6
2 lb	907 g	181 kcal	202 ml	36 ml	6
3 lb	1,361 g	272 kcal	302 ml	54 ml	6
4 lb	1,814 g	363 kcal	403 ml	73 ml	6
5 lb	2,268 g	454 kcal	504 ml	91 ml	6
6 lb	2,722 g	544 kcal	605 ml	109 ml	6
7 lb	3,175 g	635 kcal	706 ml	127 ml	6
8 lb	3,629 g	726 kcal	806 ml	145 ml	6

* The daily caloric requirement was calculated using 20 kcal/100 g body weight and the amount per feeding using 4 ml/100 g body weight. The energy requirement is ~20–26 kcal/100g body weight daily and the maximum comfortable stomach capacity is ~4 ml/100 g body weight.¹

** Concentration 0.9 kcal/ml. Most commercial puppy milk replacers in the US provide less than 1 kcal/ml, acting to increase the volume of milk required to meet caloric needs. This can be problematic in terms of the number and size of feedings given relative to stomach capacity and more likely to result in gastrointestinal disturbances. This may also account for why bottle fed puppies grow slower than puppies that nurse off a mother.

*** As the puppy is adjusting well to the milk and the feeding volume, you may be able to increase the volume fed to help reduce the number of feedings per day. Be aware that exceeding the stomach capacity (amount per feeding) may put the puppy at risk of aspiration, vomiting, diarrhea, and gas build-up in the stomach and intestines.

Puppies at that are between 3 ½ -5 weeks of age are usually eating some solid food, decreasing the amount of milk replacer required to meet daily caloric requirements. This may result in less frequent milk feedings.

¹ Lawler, D. F. "Neonatal and pediatric care of the puppy and kitten." *Theriogenology*, vol. 70, no.3, 2008, pp. 384-392.



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Kitten and Puppy (0-4 weeks of age) Temperature Chart

Age of Kitten or Puppy	Rectal Temperature ¹	Surrounding Nest Temperature ²	Room Humidity ²
0-1 week	95-99°F	85-90°F	55-60%
2-3 weeks	97-100°F	79-84°F	55-60%
4 weeks	99-101°F	73.5-79°F	55-60%

A rectal temperature is taken by placing a thermometer gently in your pet's rectum (his/her bottom). For how-to instructions, see the Maddie's Flash Class on "[Taking the Temperature in a Kitten or Puppy.](#)"

Surrounding Nest Temperature is the temperature immediately surrounding the nest where the kittens and puppies are kept. Inexpensive room thermometers can be found at home supply stores.

Room Humidity can be read with a humidity meter. Inexpensive humidity meters can be found at home supply stores.

A drop in temperature can greatly affect a kitten or puppy who is between 0-4 weeks of age! Temperature decrease can cause the heart rate to go down, and the stomach and intestines to slow down as well.

¹Rickard, Valeria. "Birth and the First 24 Hours." *Small Animal Pediatrics: The First 12 Months of Life*, edited by Michael E. Peterson and Michelle A. Kutzler, Elsevier Saunders, 2011, pp.11-19.

²Casal, Margret L. "Management of Orphan Puppies and Kittens." *Management of Pregnant and Neonatal Dogs, Cats, and Exotic Pets*, edited by Cheryl Lopate, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2012, pp.207-216.



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Fading Puppy Syndrome



Fading Puppy Syndrome is a life threatening emergency in which a puppy “crashes” and begins to fade away. If you are fostering puppies 6 weeks or younger, it is a very good idea to familiarize yourself with this handout so you know what to do if it happens. Symptoms of Fading Puppy Syndrome include:

- Extreme Lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet
- Gasping for Breath
- Whining/Crying Out
- Cold to the Touch



What to Do

1

Provide Warmth

- Use a heating disc (or heating pad on low) & keep the puppy in an enclosed space so their body temp. can recover.
- A blanket or towel should be used to separate the puppy and warming disc. Do not put the puppy directly on the heating disc - allow space to move off the heating disc if they become overheated



2

Raise Blood Sugar

- While the puppy is warming up put a couple of drops of corn syrup (or undiluted Karo syrup) directly on their gums
- Repeat every 3 minutes

Do NOT try to syringe feed the puppy unless you are positive they are swallowing.

If you do not have corn syrup/Karo syrup, a few tablespoons of sugar in warm water can be used



3

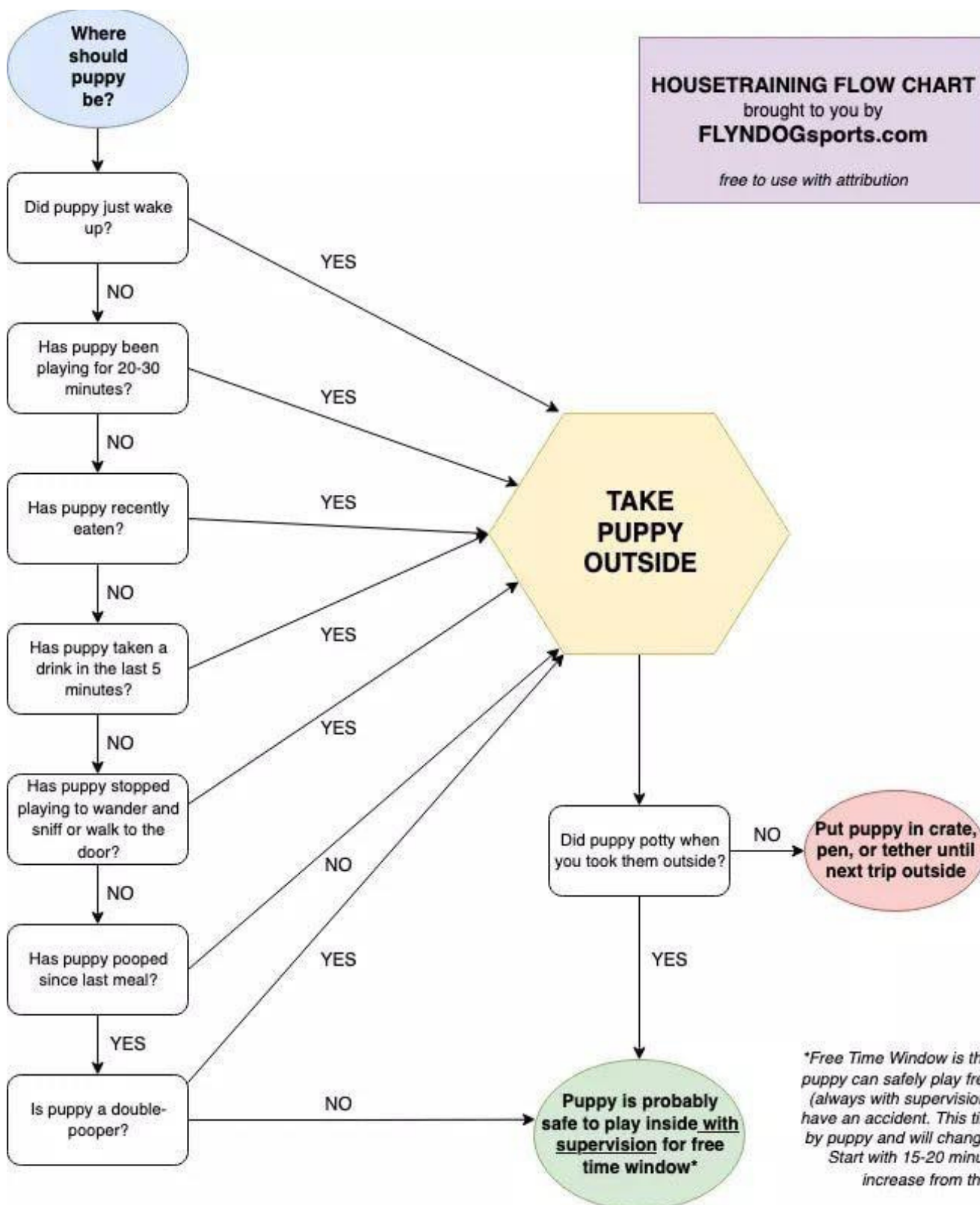
Call the Emergency Line

- Call the Foster Department Emergency line at (816) 648-0430
- Continue steps 1-2
- If the shelter is open, bring the fading puppy in immediately (alert the clinic that you are on the way at 816-683-1357)



If the Puppy Passes Away

Even with all the love, attention and treatment of this condition, most puppies still will not recover. Try not to blame yourself during this difficult time. Remember, if it wasn't for you, this puppy wouldn't have been given a chance. They passed knowing and feeling love. If this happens, alert the Foster Department who will walk you through returning the puppy to the shelter.



BOREDOM BREAKTHROUGH

Gamifying Learning for a Happy Dog

Research shows that integrating game elements into learning enhances impact, seen not just in humans but also in the play of young animals developing hunting and social skills. Let's leverage these natural tendencies to strengthen collective skills and relationships.

Energetic dogs need diverse outlets for well-being, contributing to their happiness and ours. Games replicating potentially destructive behaviors provide a secure outlet—ensuring it's enjoyable is key!

Optimal dog games mirror hunt stages, from eying to dissecting to stalking. Translating this intensity into safe home play offers numerous options, catering to different preferences.

Translating instincts into games

Stalk

Hiding food or toys throughout your environment, allowing them to engage their most powerful tool—their nose. This not only taps into their natural instincts but also turns the search for hidden treasures into an exciting and fulfilling activity for them.

Chase

Fetch and Flirt Poles, which mimic the thrill of chasing and grabbing a target. Introduce structure by incorporating a "sit" command between catches, promoting obedience and adding a layer of discipline to the excitement.

Bite

Stash a few treats in those storage boxes you've been keeping around. Digging in not only fosters confidence but also engages their senses, providing a stimulating activity that aids in mental and physical well-being.

Grab

Tugging with your dog extends beyond fun, becoming a valuable tool for instilling structure. The back-and-forth struggle over the toy fosters healthy competition, strengthening the bond between you and your canine companion. Introduce occasional "out" or "drop" commands to reinforce obedience and structure in the game.

Dissect

Letting your dog dismantle a stuffed toy offers various well-being benefits. Apart from the joy it brings, tearing the toy provides a healthy outlet for natural instincts and excess energy, engaging their mental faculties and fulfilling their innate desire to explore and manipulate objects.

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