



PUPPY CARE & DEVELOPMENT: WEEKS 1-8

Welcome to the Pup Culture litter fostering crew! The next eight weeks will be a lot of work, but there is no experience more rewarding! We hope you find this guide helpful. Please do not hesitate to voice your questions and concerns. There are no stupid questions! Every mom and her litter are slightly different.

<u>WEEK 1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mom nurses puppies every couple hours • Puppies need to be stimulated to urinate/defecate (mom should take care of this, but monitor to make sure she is doing her job) • Puppies need to stay warm (use hot water bottle or heating pad set on lowest setting) • Only handle puppies when necessary <p><u>DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppies eyes and ears are closed • Most of their time is spent sleeping and nursing <p><u>TASKS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate a color for each puppy. This color corresponds with their collar and section on the weight chart (<i>e.g. If you designate one puppy as red, they will wear a red collar and you will record his/her weight daily in the red marked section of the weight chart</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You will weigh each puppy <u>daily</u> and record their weight until they are 8-weeks-old and able to go to their forever home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aim to be consistent! Weigh your litter at the same time each day (<i>refer to "weighing puppies" below</i>) • <u>Check each puppy's collar daily.</u> Puppies grow a ton each day and their collars can become too tight quickly! Make sure you can fit two fingers in between their neck and collar.
<u>WEEK 2</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mom nurses puppies every couple hours • Puppies still need to be stimulated to urinate/defecate (keep monitoring!) • Puppies need to stay warm (use hot water bottle or heating



TASKS

- Trim your each puppy's nails! Use a baby nail clipper to trim the sharp, curved tip of their nail. Be careful not to clip too much! If you hit their quick (like cutting your toe) they can bleed which will cause a lot of pain and can even lead to infection. Don't forget to trim that dewclaw! (their "thumb")
- Check collars daily and adjust as necessary
- Weigh puppies daily

WEEK 4

WEEK 4 CONT.

- If you have an outdoor space, you can now introduce your puppies to the great outdoors!
 - Start by setting up a secure pen on shaded grass or pavement (no rocks!)
 - Transfer them to the outdoor pen starting at fifteen minute increments and gradually increase time
 - Use your judgement on what weather is safe for them to be outside. Not too cold, not too hot, but *just* right!
 - Supervise the puppies at all times
 - Consider securing pen with stakes and add netting over top of your outdoor pen for extra safety and protection from wild animals
 - While outside, make sure the puppies have constant access to clean water

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Puppies begin to wean off mom's milk (*see "feeding" section below*)
- You may introduce water to your puppies to drink by putting out a small amount of water in a shallow dish. Make sure the dish is shallow enough for a puppy to easily climb out if they accidentally fall in
- Socialization begins!
 - Start handling puppies often but do not take them out of mom's sight (limiting stress on mom is key to healthy,

	<p>happy puppies!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potty training begins! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Add wee wee pads to pen. Divide your pen in half-- one half made cozy for sleeping, one half for wee wee pads (Take note of the side your puppies have been urinating/defecating on and place the wee wee pads in that place) <p><u>TASKS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deworm puppies for the first time (<i>see "deworming" section below</i>) • Feed puppies gruel every morning (<i>see "feeding" section below</i>) • Check collars daily and adjust as necessary • Weigh puppies daily
<u>WEEK 5</u>	<p><u>DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppies take another step in the weaning process (<i>see "feeding" section below</i>) • Teething/nipping will ramp up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Provide chew toys and redirect them to chew on a toy if they teethe on you • Play and handle puppies frequently <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Gently tug on their ears, tail, touch their feet, rub their belly, etc. This will desensitize them and make them better family members! <p><u>TASKS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed puppies gruel 2x daily-- morning and evening • Check collars every day and adjust as necessary • Weigh puppies daily
<u>WEEK 6</u> <u>WEEK 6 CONT.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption applications start coming in! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pup Culture will connect you with potential adopters via text to coordinate meet and greets at your home <p><u>DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppy coordination improves • Puppies may begin shredding wee wee pads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Use a wee wee pad tray/ holder or use painters tape to secure pads to floor ◦ Praise puppies heavily for using the wee wee pad • Mom nurses puppies less frequently <p><u>TASKS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second round of puppy dewormer (<i>refer to "deworming" section below</i>) • Feed puppies 3x daily-- morning, afternoon, evening (<i>refer to "feeding" section below</i>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Coordinate pick-up time with each adopter. Have each puppy's vaccine and microchip paperwork ready to give to adopter!
--	--

SUPPLIES:

- ☐ Baby pool
- ☐ Pen
- ☐ Towels, sheets, blankets
- ☐ Tarp, baby "splat mat" or plastic drop cloth, or an easy-to-clean/ non-absorbent floor
- ☐ Bottles
- ☐ Paper towels or rags
- ☐ Milk replacer/formula
- ☐ Puppy kibble
- ☐ Puppy canned/ wet food
- ☐ Blender
- ☐ Large water bowl & bowl for mom
- ☐ Cupcake tin (designate 1 bowl in tin for each puppy)
- ☐ Shallow water bowl
- ☐ Heating pad or hot water bottle
- ☐ Cardboard to build boundary wall on puppy pen
- ☐ Kitchen scale
- ☐ Large bowl
- ☐ Custom weight-chart
- ☐ Weaning puppy collars
- ☐ Collar with Pup Culture tag for mom

GENERAL:

- Puppies under 3 weeks old should be kept in a baby pool or something that can function as a whelping box
- Bedding should be changed at minimum once a day
 - When under two weeks, make sure the puppies are not able to get stuck in the folds of the bedding (Try wrapping sheet over baby pool walls and tucking it under the baby pool)
- Place a heating pad or hot water bottle under a sheet or towel. Make sure heating pad is on LOWEST setting!
- Set up mom and puppies in a separate room or bathroom where she can have a quiet, private space to keep her stress level low

BOTTLE FEEDING BABIES:

- [4 Ways to Safely Formula Feed Puppies](#)

FEEDING:

PUPPIES WILL CONTINUE TO NURSE DURING THE ENTIRE WEANING PROCESS.
MOM WILL WEAN PUPPIES NATURALLY!

** Feed your puppies in the shower, outside, or somewhere you can easily clean up. Puppies will step in gruel and splatter it everywhere when first learning to eat. Have a rag ready to clean them up afterwards

4 WEEKS: Introduce gruel to puppies once a day in the morning. Start by soaking 1 cup of puppy kibble with water in the fridge overnight. In the morning, add 1 cup softened kibble with ½ can of puppy wet food and two scoops of milk replacer powdered formula to your blender. Add hot water to the mixture until all ingredients are covered. Blend and add water until your gruel is the consistency of formula-- thin! Serve warm NOT hot. If your puppies are hesitant to eat, dip your finger in the gruel and let them lick it. Alter amount depending on how much puppies eat. Puppies this age can self-regulate! *If you have been weighing your puppies around mealtime daily, give them an hour after eating to digest before weighing them from now on so you don't get a false reading

5 WEEKS: Subtract milk replacer from gruel and add a second meal to the day in the late afternoon or early evening. This week, decrease the amount of water to your softened kibble and canned wet food mixture. Blend and add water until your gruel is the consistency of oatmeal. *If you have been weighing your puppies around mealtime daily, give them an hour after eating to digest before weighing them from now on so you don't get a false reading

6 WEEKS: Subtract canned food from gruel and add a third meal to the day thus feeding the puppies gruel in the morning, afternoon, and evening. This week, decrease the amount of water to your soaked kibble even more. Pulse blender so that your gruel is the consistency of canned wet food. *If you have been weighing your puppies around mealtime daily, give them an hour after eating to digest before weighing them from now on so you don't get a false reading

7 WEEKS: Forget the blender! Give puppies soaked/ softened kibble.

8 WEEKS: No more soaking kibble! Give puppies hard kibble moistened with a bit of water. Let adopters know what kibble you have been feeding their new puppy and recommend they transition their puppy to the food of their choice by mixing in your kibble and decreasing the amount of your kibble day by day.

CARING FOR MOM:

- Mom should be on puppy food to get enough calories to nurse her puppies
 - She will likely need to be fed 5x daily (approx. every 3 hours. For instance, feed her at 7am, 10am, 1pm, 4pm, and 7pm). This will help her digest much more food than she would normally consume while nursing
- Make sure she has access to plenty of clean water at all times
- Give her a comfortable space away from her puppies to escape to as she pleases
- Moms are typically not fully housebroken, especially while nursing (nursing can cause gastrointestinal upset). Take her out every few hours just like you would a new puppy and provide a wee wee pad away from her puppies if she is willing to use it
- If needed, sprinkle Fortiflora supplement over kibble each morning until diarrhea subsides

DEWORMING:

- Goat dewormer is used for puppies: [Amazon link to dewormer](#)
- Deworm at 4 weeks, 6 weeks, and 8 weeks for three consecutive days before mealtime using a small syringe.
- This can be messy! Have a rag handy to wipe them afterwards and consider wearing a smock
- [Weight \(lbs\) | Dose \(ml\) Calculator](#)

Detailed deworming dosage chart:

<https://www.hyperdrug.co.uk/images/panacuradult.jpg>

FLEA/TICK MEDICATION:

- If you see fleas or ticks on mom, the only safe option while nursing is Frontline Plus
- Use a flea comb for puppies-- Comb through fur (especially by the base of the tail and inside thighs)
- As a preventative, lightly spray their coat with a very diluted mixture of lavender oil and water

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- [Newborn Puppies: Birth to 2 Weeks](#)
- [Watching Puppy Grow from 2 to 4 Weeks](#)
- [Watching Puppy Grow from 4 to 6 Weeks](#)

TIPS TO SAVE MONEY:

- Designate a soiled linen area. Wash linens on hot with non-scented, paraben-free laundry detergent

- Make cleaning spray out of white vinegar and water using a 1 to 3 ratio (option to add a few drops of your favorite essential oils)
- Use plastic shopping bags or poop bags to clean up poop before washing linens
- Use recycled cardboard and paper bags as wee wee pads
- Always give your Pup Culture foster coordinator plenty of notice if you are running out of supplies so that they can order them for you
- Never order supplies for your litter without Pup Culture approval unless you plan to pay for it yourself
- Braiding ripped towels and sheets make for perfect puppy tug toys!

WEIGHING PUPPIES:

- Weigh the puppies every day around the same time
- Each puppy should be wearing a collar that matches its color on the weight chart
- Puppies should gain at least 10% of their birth weight each day
 - If birth weight is unknown, make sure the puppies are steadily gaining weight and identify a pattern. If a puppy does not gain the typical amount, encourage the puppy to nurse more and consider bottle feeding if young
 - Weight loss in a puppy (even a small amount) is often the first indication that something is wrong. If this happens, let your Pup Culture foster coordinator know so they can help you figure out the best course of action
- How to weigh your puppies:
 - Place a container that the puppy will fit comfortably inside on the kitchen scale
 - Zero out your scale (typically by weighing your container and pressing "hold" until your scale reads all zeros)
 - Record each puppy's daily weight on your weight chart (*example and printable version below*)

Example:

Autumn Litter

Week 1	10/04	10/05	10/06	10/07	10/08	10/09	10/10
--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Maple (pink)							
Clove (blue)							
Pumpkin (orange)							

Week 2	10/11	10/12	10/13	10/14	10/15	10/16	10/17
Maple (pink)							
Clove (blue)							
Pumpkin (orange)							

Printable version:

										WEEK

PUPPY WEIGHT-CHART

DEWORMING DOSAGE CHART:

Weight	Dosage
0.5	0.23
0.6	0.27
0.7	0.32
0.8	0.36
0.9	0.41
1	0.45
1.1	0.50
1.2	0.55
1.3	0.59
1.4	0.64
1.5	0.68
1.6	0.73
1.7	0.77
1.8	0.82
1.9	0.86
2	0.91
2.1	0.95
2.2	1.00
2.3	1.05
2.4	1.09
2.5	1.14
2.6	1.18
2.7	1.23
2.8	1.27
2.9	1.32
3	1.36
3.1	1.41
3.2	1.45
3.3	1.50
3.4	1.55
3.5	1.59
3.6	1.64
3.7	1.68
3.8	1.73
3.9	1.77
4	1.82
4.1	1.86

4.2	1.91
4.3	1.95
4.4	2.00
4.5	2.05
4.6	2.09
4.7	2.14
4.8	2.18
4.9	2.23
5	2.27
5.1	2.32
5.2	2.36
5.3	2.41
5.4	2.45
5.5	2.50
5.6	2.55
5.7	2.59
5.8	2.64
5.9	2.68
6	2.73
6.1	2.77
6.2	2.82
6.3	2.86
6.4	2.91
6.5	2.95
6.6	3.00
6.7	3.05
6.8	3.09
6.9	3.14
7	3.18
7.1	3.23
7.2	3.27
7.3	3.32
7.4	3.36
7.5	3.41
7.6	3.45
7.7	3.50
7.8	3.55
7.9	3.59
8	3.64

8.1	3.68
8.2	3.73
8.3	3.77
8.4	3.82
8.5	3.86
8.6	3.91
8.7	3.95
8.8	4.00
8.9	4.05
9	4.09
9.1	4.14
9.2	4.18
9.3	4.23
9.4	4.27
9.5	4.32
9.6	4.36
9.7	4.41
9.8	4.45
9.9	4.50
10	4.55
10.1	4.59
10.2	4.64
10.3	4.68
10.4	4.73
10.5	4.77
10.6	4.82
10.7	4.86
10.8	4.91
10.9	4.95
11	5.00
11.1	5.05
11.2	5.09
11.3	5.14
11.4	5.18
11.5	5.23
11.6	5.27
11.7	5.32
11.8	5.36
11.9	5.41

12	5.45
12.1	5.50
12.2	5.55
12.3	5.59
12.4	5.64
12.5	5.68
12.6	5.73
12.7	5.77
12.8	5.82
12.9	5.86
13	5.91
13.1	5.95
13.2	6.00
13.3	6.05
13.4	6.09
13.5	6.14
13.6	6.18
13.7	6.23
13.8	6.27
13.9	6.32
14	6.36
14.1	6.41
14.2	6.45
14.3	6.50
14.4	6.55
14.5	6.59
14.6	6.64
14.7	6.68
14.8	6.73
14.9	6.77
15	6.82