



ORPHAN CARE OF PUPPIES

How Warm Does Its Environment Need to Be?

Puppies need a clean, warm, draft-free nesting area. The air temperature in the immediate vicinity should be 85-90° F for the first week and about 80° F during the next 3-4 weeks. By the time the puppies are six weeks of age, temperatures can be reduced to 70° F.

Temperatures can be maintained with heat lamps, light bulbs, or heating pads covered with 3-4 layers of cotton towels. *Great care must be taken that the puppies are not overheated* during the first few days of life, when they are unable to move away from a heat source.

Clean newspaper is an adequate bedding because it is easily disposed of when soiled. Cotton towels are best because they provide traction for moving around and can be laundered when dirty.

How Often Should I be Feeding?

Puppies may be fed by bottle or by stomach tube. Stomach tube feeding is much faster and more convenient with large litters. Many people prefer to bottle-feed for prolonged puppy contact and the more natural nature of it. We can instruct you on either method of feeding.

Newborn puppies should be fed 3-4 times daily by tube or 5-6 times daily by bottle. By two weeks of age, 3 tube feedings or 4 bottle feedings are usually sufficient. Puppies must be helped to urinate and defecate by gently stroking the genital area with tissue or cotton moistened with warm water. This should be done after each feeding. Be persistent until they urinate or defecate.

If your puppy shows frequent crying or failure to gain weight, there is a problem. Call us, and tell us what is happening so we may advise you. Most puppies will double their weight in 8-10 days.

How Much Should I Feed?

Overfeeding can cause problems just like slight underfeeding. You can determine how much to feed an orphan puppy by considering its daily caloric

requirements. The total daily caloric requirements for puppies under four weeks of age are: (we can weigh it for you)

1st Week 3.75 calories per ounce of body weight
2nd Week 4.50 calories per ounce of body weight
3rd Week 5.00 calories per ounce of body weight
4th Week 5.50 calories per ounce of body weight

Most milk substitutes contain about 1 calorie per ml or cc. Do not use cow's milk—the sugar lactose in it is not digestible by puppies and will cause diarrhea or intestinal bloating. Use only a puppy formula like Esbilac.

Example: You plan to feed a five-ounce puppy under a week of age. You are able to feed it four times daily. The puppy requires 3.75 calories per ounce of body weight X 5-ounce puppy = 18.75 calories per day. Each of four feedings will be 4.69 calories or 4.69 ml or cc (5ml is one Teaspoonful).

Solid foods are introduced at three weeks of age. Panfeed a thin gruel made by blending a high-quality puppy food with the milk replacer. Over time, gradually thicken the gruel until no milk substitute is used at about six weeks of age. At this time, the puppies should be offered puppy food three times daily.

Call Us If...

- You are having difficulty getting food down the puppy or it comes out its nose with each feeding.
- It isn't urinating and defecating with stimulation.
- Its belly is tightly bloated.
- It is crying and seems restless or doesn't seem to be growing.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!