

# Puppy Litter Raising

The first months of a puppy's life shape who they become as a dog!



## HELPFUL TIPS

To prevent fear, aggression & anxiety

### REDUCE STRESS FOR MOM

Make mom's pregnancy as stress-free as possible. Keep her comfortable and well-fed. Stress hormones can hurt the puppies.

### FIRST FEW WEEKS

After the litter is born, give them a clean, warm place to sleep inside, with mom. They should stay together with mom until 8-10 weeks of age. This is important for their health & behavior. If they stay together this long, they are less likely to bite and be fearful. (They should be separated after 10 weeks of age.)

### HEALTH & MEDICAL CARE

Get them to a vet to be checked out as soon as you are able to. Later, at 6 weeks of age, puppies will need their first in a series of three vaccinations.

Puppies should not be exposed to germs or public surfaces until they've been completely vaccinated. This includes walking on sidewalks or at the park.



## FOOD & NUTRITION



- Puppies get nutrition from mom the first couple weeks, like humans, and begin nursing within a few hours to receive colostrum, which is full of important nutrients and antibodies to prevent infection.
- If mom did not make it, or is missing, get a puppy milk replacer/formula (like PetAg) and bottle-feed. Do not feed cow's milk - it does not have the necessary nutrition that puppies need.
- Around 3-4 weeks, mom will show signs she is ready to be done nursing. Begin to separate mom and puppies for an hour, 2-3 times per day, and feed the puppies Gruel during those times. Mom still needs to stay with the pups until 8 weeks! She just needs breaks starting around 3-4 weeks.
- Mom also needs good nutrition during this time. A nursing mom might need 2-3 times more food per day than usual to be able to nourish her pups.

### Puppy Gruel

Mix puppy milk replacer with a small amount of puppy food soaked in water on a flat saucer. Puppies' noses should be gently dipped into the mixture two or three times per day until they begin to lap; this usually takes one to three days.

## SOCIALIZATION

Socializing puppies can make a huge difference in their confidence and well-being later in life! In their first couple of weeks, handle the puppies gently every day. Softly touch their feet, ears, mouth etc. This helps them get used to human touch.

As puppies gain a bit of mobility and independence:

- Gradually expose them to different sights, sounds and textures like grass, gravel, tile, TV, female voices, male voices, pots and pans, different toys, cars, bikes, scooters, paper, water, and more.
- Allow them to meet new people, but don't allow people to be aggressive in handling them. Take it slow.
- Invite friendly dogs that are up to date on all their annual vaccines over to play with the puppies. Make sure they are friendly and not too rough.
- Take it slow! Let them experience these things gradually so they don't get scared. For more info, google "Rule of 7 puppy socialization."



**Want to learn more about puppy raising?**

[www.PuppyCulture.com](http://www.PuppyCulture.com) is a great resource with free comprehensive guides