



After the C-Section

Colored collars: whelping collars are available online and can be helpful to easily identify the puppies, especially if there are multiple puppies with the same coat color

Kitchen scale: weigh the puppies daily during the first week of life to ensure they are gaining weight daily. If a puppy stops gaining or loses weight, this can be a sign of illness. Puppies should be gaining about 10% of their body weight per day.

Heat source: Puppies are unable to regulate their body temperature for the first 2 weeks of life. A heating pad or heat lamp should be available to keep them warm. The temperature should be 77-80 degrees, which will keep the puppies temperature around 98-99 degrees. There should also be room for the puppies to crawl away from the heat source to prevent overheating.

Stimulate to use bathroom: Puppies are unable to urinate or defecate on their own for the first few weeks of life. The mother dog will usually groom the puppies to help stimulate them. If the bitch does not do this on her own, you should use a damp warm washcloth, paper towel, or cotton ball to stimulate them. Rub gently/massage around the anal area to mimic a mother's tongue. Do not aggressively rub the anus or ulceration will occur. Feces should resemble the color of mustard after the initial meconium passes.

Cleaning: If the puppies get dirty, you can use a wet warm washcloth to wipe them down. Make sure to fully dry them so they do not get cold.

Safety: Monitoring for safety during the first 10 days is crucial. Some bitches' will not immediately display mothering instincts and may try to harm the puppies. They may also inadvertently sit on or step on the puppies.

Milk Production: Fenugreek is an herbal supplement that can help with stimulating milk production. Also ensure the bitch is on a high-quality puppy food during lactation so she is getting enough calories/fat and calcium for milk production. If there is no milk production initially, we will tube feed the puppies with serum from a vaccinated dog to provide them with antibodies that would have been received in colostrum. If milk production does not kick in within 24 hours, you may need to consider tube or bottle feeding. See separate handout for instructions.

Post Op Care: If your bitch had a C-Section, check the incision at least twice a day to ensure it stays clean and dry. If you need to clean it, use a damp paper towel. Do not put any ointments or topical substances on the incision. No baths for 14 days after surgery. No antibiotics will be sent home (unless there was a complication). Pain medication will be sent home, we will go over the instructions during discharge.

Feeding: Puppies will need to eat every very frequently

- **Week 1** – feed every 2 hours
- **Week 2** – feed every 3 hours

- **Week 3** – feed every 4 hours
- **Week 4** – feed every 5-6 hours
- **Week 4/5** – start to introduce gruel

Gruel: mix of dry and wet food soaked in warm water to soften

- Feed in a shallow saucer so the puppy can get in and out of the tray easily
- Also offer water in a shallow saucer
- Gradually reduce the amount of water used to soften the food so they are on solid kibble by 8 weeks old

Deworming: Start deworming at 2 weeks old with pyrantel (strongid) and repeat every 2 weeks. We recommend a dose of 1 mL per 5 lbs.

Vaccines/Health Certificates: The puppies first vet visit should be scheduled at 7-8 weeks old. They will get an exam, DHPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccine, deworming, fecal exam, and health certificate for sale if needed. We have special pricing for litters for this visit.