



Canine: Guide to Raising Unweaned Puppies

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Raising unweaned puppies can be a fun and rewarding experience. This information sheet can help foster parents to keep this vulnerable population safe and healthy.

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[Introduction](#)



Puppies under the age of 8 weeks need a mother - either a dog or a human surrogate. They are very vulnerable in a shelter and the chance to get them into a foster home within 24 hours is a chance to save their lives. The following guidelines will help you with the care of your puppies and will help you understand the policies and procedures of the foster care program. Please keep the following items on this list in mind before you agree to bring foster animals into your home.

- A foster animal could potentially carry illness into your home that could affect your resident animals' (or humans') health.
- To protect people, young children should not handle the foster puppies and everyone should wash their hands after handling animals and their fecal waste.
- To protect other dogs, foster animals should be separated from household pets for at least two weeks. This means that you should also prohibit the sharing of food and water bowls and toys.
- Puppies should be de-fleaed before they enter your home and as often as necessary to keep fleas off of them, because fleas can spread disease among your other animals and to people.
- You should wash your hands with soap and water before handling your own animals or children and you may also want to change clothes.
- You should routinely disinfect the foster puppies' quarters and disinfect the entire premises before new puppies are introduced.
- The best way to disinfect the area is to remove all organic material and fecal debris and then soak with a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water) for at least 30 minutes. All surfaces, bowls, toys etc need to be disinfected (so you probably want to keep puppies in a room without carpeting, hardwood floors and so forth).



- It is best to have only litter at a time rather than constantly adding new puppies in with others.
- It is possible even with these precautions that resident dogs could be exposed to mild infections such as URI. Ask the foster coordinator for more information if this is a concern.

Supplies you will need before you bring home puppies

- **Box or carrier** You may want to use the carrier in which you took the litter home. It will provide a familiar-smelling, dark, quiet home for your foster puppies. However, a bigger box may be desirable, as it will allow you to see in, as well as provide plenty of room for the mother and the new, growing litter of puppies.
- **Newspapers** Keep several layers in the bottom of the box, and they will come in handy when the puppies start to roam around the room.
- **Water bowls** Heavy and impossible to tip. Should be stainless steel or porcelain/ceramic, NOT plastic, as plastic is difficult to disinfect because it is so porous.
- **Food bowls (at least 2)** One is for the eat-at-will dry food, the other for canned food. You can use TV dinner trays, paper plates or whatever you have; any relatively flat plate or saucer will do. The larger the litter, the larger the plate should be so that no one gets crowded out.
- **Food** You should have both dry puppy chow, canned dog food (any brand for adults or puppies), and all-meat baby food (must not contain vegetables or onion powder). Offer several choices to weaned puppies to determine their preferences.
- **Heating pad, hot water bottle, or infrared lamp** Unless the nursery is at least 85° and your puppies are 2 weeks or older, you need to supply extra heat. **BE SURE THAT THE PUPPIES HAVE ROOM TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE HEAT**

(leave room for mom if she is with them). For instance, if you are using a heating pad, place it under a towel so that it covers only half of the floor area of their box. The heating pad should be on "low" or "medium." If you use a hot water bottle, keep it where the dog can't destroy it.

- Clean towels and blankets
- Toys Plastic, disinfectable toys are good to reuse for new litters. Clean tennis balls and old stuffed socks, caps work well.
- Scale Although not critical to success, a food or postal scale will be very helpful in monitoring small puppies' growth, which can be variable among breeds.

Caring for a Pregnant Bitch

Feeding recommendations for the pregnant and nursing dog:

- During the first 6 weeks of gestation: feed as usual, regular maintenance diet is sufficient.
- Last 3-4 weeks of gestation – the nutritional needs increase towards the end of pregnancy, and will continue to increase when the puppies are nursing. Feed 10-20% more than regular maintenance diet if using regular adult dog food, or switch gradually to dry puppy food and feed the same amount as usual, until the puppies are born.
- During the nursing period the nutritional needs are markedly increased. Nursing bitches may need 2-4 times the normal maintenance diet to maintain milk production and avoid weight loss. The easiest way to ensure these needs are met is by free feeding dry puppy food, until the puppies are weaned.

What to expect during the delivery:

Most dogs give birth without any need for outside help and it is quite possible that you will miss the birth process entirely. It is still important that you know what to expect, and when you should call for assistance.



Just before delivery, the mother will often show signs such as restlessness and nesting. If you are suspecting that the birth of the puppies is impending, gently guide the mother to the designated nursing area. If she refuses to stay there, or if she has had her puppies outside of the pre-assigned area, wait till she is completely done with the delivery, and then move them all into the designated area.

Some dogs will look to you for company and comfort during birth, and will try to follow you if you leave. If this is the case, stay with her and talk to her in a calm, soothing manner. The need for your presence will often subside with the birth of the first couple of puppies, as she will be very busy and not so dependent on your presence. It is however still a good idea to stay nearby so that you can monitor the progression of the delivery, and make sure all the puppies are alive and healthy.

On the other hand; some bitches will crave privacy, and may try to get away from you and hide. If this is the case: give her the space and time she needs, but keep checking in on her regularly.

Stages of labor

During the first stage, uterine contractions begin. The mother will appear very restless. Dogs may pace, dig, shiver, pant, whine or even vomit. This is all normal so just keep an eye on her, make sure she is undisturbed, and that she has water available should she want it. The first stage may last 12 - 24 hours, and is often longer in case of first time pregnancies.

The second stage is the hard labor stage in which the puppy is expelled. In this stage, the water breaks and straw colored fluid is passed, a puppy will be delivered a few minutes later. Puppies are born covered in membranes that must be cleaned away to open their airways, or the pup will suffocate, the mother will usually bite and lick these membranes away. Allow her a minute or two after birth to do this; the mother should lick her offspring clean and bite through the umbilical cord. This is an important process for the



bonding between mother and offspring, and allows the bitch to learn to recognize the puppies as her own. Do not disturb her. The treatment she gives her offspring may seem rough, but in reality this serves to stimulate breathing and blood circulation. If the mother shows no interest in her offspring, even after resting for a few minutes you must clean the puppy for her and make sure it is breathing and alive. Simply remove the slippery covering and rub the puppy with a clean towel, then place it back with the mother. Puppies should begin nursing between subsequent births. Puppies are born anywhere from minutes to hours apart, so you can expect most deliveries to take a significant amount of time depending on the size of the litter. Expect a new puppy every 30 to 60 minutes; the mother will usually strain for 10 to 30 minutes before each newborn. It is normal that the mother takes a rest partway through delivery, and for some dogs you may have up to 4 hours without any signs of straining between pups. If a puppy is not born within 2-4 hours, if the mother appears to be continually straining for more than 1 hour, or if she shows signs of distress, you should consult a veterinarian immediately. This may be an indication that she needs a Caesarean section or drugs to stimulate contractions. If the mother is content and happy, she is probably finished, or taking a rest. It is always better to call a veterinarian if in doubt.

The third and final stage refers to the expulsion of the placenta and afterbirth. Usually the placenta follows a few minutes after delivery of each puppy, but not always; the mother may pass two pups and then two placentas. This is normal. The mother will probably eat some or all of the placentas, this is also normal.

General Neonatal Care

1. No fostered animals should be allowed to mingle with your own pets or outside in your yard for the first two weeks after you bring them home. This is to protect both the foster pets



and your own pets from any infectious agents they may bring from the shelter.

2. In the 2 first weeks of life puppies are helpless and vulnerable. They are still developing basic reflexes, their hearing and vision is still not fully developed, and they are unable to properly control their body temperatures. They should therefore be confined to the nursery area.
3. Young puppies should be kept in a large box or kennel lined with a towel for easy cleaning. It is very important to keep the puppies warm, especially during the first 2-3 weeks of life. A heating pad or a warm water bottle can be ideal sources of heating. If you use a heating pad make sure it only covers half or parts of the nursing area so that the neonates can move away from the heat if they need to, and also make sure it is set on "low" and that the electrical cord is out of reach of sharp little puppy teeth. The more puppies in your litter, the better able they will be to keep warm by sleeping together in a heap. Small litters and singletons need more help keeping warm, singletons will also often find comfort in a stuffed fluffy toy to snuggle up to. Keep neonates away from heaters or cold drafts.
4. During the first 2-3 weeks of life puppies do not urinate and defecate on their own. In nature this is stimulated when the mother is cleaning them, but in the absence of a mom you will need to do the job. Fortunately it's a fairly easy task as it should be done every few hours. Gently rub a warm moist paper towel or a baby tissue on the puppy's anus and genital area; this will stimulate them to urinate and defecate on the paper towel. Doing it just after feeding is an easy way to ensure it gets done regularly.
5. Keep the puppies clean. A mother dog works hard to keep her puppies clean. She will constantly be grooming them thoroughly to remove any sticky messes they may get into,

such as food or feces, it also stimulates circulation and the digestive system. A daily grooming session gives you the chance to closely monitor each puppy and gets them familiarized with being handled. If the neonate is not very dirty you can use a flea comb to get rid of dust and dried feces in the fur. You can also use a warm, damp wash cloth to clean them a bit more thoroughly. Use short strokes to mimic a mother's tongue. Be sure to dry the puppy well when done so that they don't get chilled.

6. As the puppies get older, from 4-5 weeks of age, they can be allowed to roam a larger area of your house, but they should still be closely supervised and kept in a secured area when not confined to their nursing area. Remember these puppies are still very vulnerable to infections, such as canine parvo infection, and should be separated from other pets if possible, and only be allowed to interact with fully vaccinated, healthy dogs.

When and how should I start socialization?

Relinquishment of pets to shelters due to behavioral problems is a significant problem, especially for dogs. Puppies isolated from other puppies until 16 - 18 weeks of age, after receiving all their puppy shots, are more likely to display fearful behavior and be aggressed upon by other pups, and thus have a higher chance of ending up in a shelter later in their life. Part of your job as a foster home is to convince the puppies that humans are kind and loving, and that other pets do not pose any threat.

The primary socialization period of puppies is between 3 and 13 weeks. This means that you need to get the puppies used to people and other animals before finishing their vaccination program. This period in the puppy's life is critical for development of primary social relationships with humans and other animals. Puppies that are confined during this period are significantly more likely to develop behavioral problems such as fear and



aggression, than puppies that are provided the opportunity to get socialized with other animals and people.

Even outgoing, friendly puppies should be allowed 24 hours to accustom themselves to their new home in a quiet room, but if they seem content and happy after the initial “chill-out period” they can be cuddled and played with freely.

Shy pets will need more encouragement. Try sitting on the floor allowing the puppies to approach you or avoid you as they please, and play freely around you. You can also tempt them with small treats and food to convince them that you are not as scary as you appear. Always praise positive interaction.

Any introductions of puppies to other cats or dogs should be made with great care and under constant supervision.

It can be hard to weigh the positive effects of socialization against the risks of exposure to infectious diseases when dealing with puppies. More information about these issues can be found in Dr. Segurson’s paper “Socialization and Parvovirus Risk” for further information and precautionary steps to take in when dealing with socialization and the risk of infectious diseases.

There is no such thing as a "bad" puppy and it is useless to punish a "naughty" puppy. Their little minds do not grasp deductive reasoning. Puppies are easily distracted with a toy or a treat when being mischievous; use redirection rather than punishment and scolding. By providing toys, chews, scratching poles etc. you can get a puppy on its right track to being somebody’s well-behaved pet.

Neonatal nutrition

What to feed?

Commercially available puppy formula should be given at the puppy's body temperature (about 100 degrees). Once the can is opened or the powder reconstituted, unused formula should be kept refrigerated and discarded after 24 hours.

It is best to feed the puppies one-by-one, and on a raised surface - this allows them to feed with all four feet on the surface, and their heads level, much as they would if they were nursing from their mom. Some puppies prefer to nurse standing on their hind legs while holding the bottle. They will require a little support from you in this position. Avoid feeding a puppy while he is cradled on his back - if the fluid goes down the wrong way, it may end up in his lungs.

Gently open a puppy's mouth with one finger and place the tip of the nipple on his tongue. If he won't eat, try stroking him. Pull lightly on the bottle to encourage vigorous sucking. Be sure to tilt the bottle up slightly to prevent the puppy from inhaling too much air. Do not force the puppy to nurse, or allow him to nurse too fast. After each feeding, the puppy should be burped. Hold him against your shoulder and gently massage his back or pat it lightly.

Overfeeding is as dangerous as underfeeding puppies! Keep an eye on your puppies at feeding time and monitor how much each is eating. If you see signs of diarrhea, separate them for a short period until you find out which one is sick. Your puppies will generally regulate their own food intake. If they need more food, they may whine or suck on their litter mates. A good indication that they are getting enough to eat is the size of their bellies - they should be filled out after a meal, but not bloated.

How can I evaluate healthy growth?

What are the expectations at the different ages?

0-1 Weeks

- Feeding: Bottle feed 1/2 tablespoon formula every 2 - 3 hours. If the bitch is with the puppies, they should nurse vigorously and compete for nipples. Newborns can nurse up to 45 minutes at a time. Be sure to watch puppies nursing at least once a day, if the bitch will permit it. Check that everyone is nursing and that there isn't too much jockeying for position. A great deal of activity and crying could indicate

a problem with milk flow, quality or availability. When the bitch reenters the box, there should be some fussing for only a few minutes before everyone has settled down to serious nursing.

- Environment: The temperature of the nest box should be nice and warm: 85-90 degrees. Chilling is the number one danger to newborn puppies.
- Behavior and training: At one week of age, the puppies should be handled minimally. Puppies will sleep 90% of the time and eat the other 10%.

1-2 weeks

- Feeding: Bottle feed formula every 2 - 3 hours, until the puppies' bellies are full but not bloated.
- Environment: Floor temperature of the nest box should be 80 to 85 degrees.
- Behavior and training: Ear canals open between 5 and 8 days. Eyes will 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.
- Healthy puppies 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.

2-3 weeks

- Feeding: Bottle feed formula every 3-4 hours, until the puppies' bellies are full but not bloated.
- Environment: The floor temperature of the nest box should be 75 to 80 degrees.
- Behavior and training: If there is a bitch, she will begin to spend larger periods of time out of the nest, though she will not go far from it.

- Locomotion: Puppies begin to crawl around day 18 and can stand by day 21. They 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.
- Socialization: Puppies begin their socialization phase - they will be strongly influenced by the behavior of their mother for the next six 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.

3-4 weeks

- Feeding: Bottle feed formula every 4 hours, until puppies are full but not bloated. Puppies may start lapping from a bowl.
- Environment: The floor temperature of the nest box should be 70 to 75 degrees from this point onward.
- Behavior and training: Adult eye color will begin to appear, but may not reach final shade for another 9 to 12 weeks. Puppies begin to see well and their eyes begin to look and function like adult dogs' eyes. Puppies will start cleaning themselves, though their mother will continue to do most of the serious cleaning.

4-5 weeks

- Feeding: Bottle feed as needed to keep pups from crying with hunger. Puppies usually can drink and eat from a saucer by 4 weeks. Weaning should be done gradually. Introduce them to solid food by offering warmed canned food, mixed with a little water into gruel, in a shallow saucer. You can begin by placing one puppy by the plate of canned food 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. 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.

If there is a bitch present, she 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.

Be sure that the puppies always have access to fresh water in a low, stable bowl.

- Behavior and training: 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, or outside, 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 or cry to go out. 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.

- Vaccination: foster puppies in animal rescue programs or shelters should receive their first vaccination at 4-6 weeks of age. The vaccine should be repeated every 2 weeks until 18 weeks of age, or until adopted to a permanent home. Please see our [vaccination information sheet](#) for more detailed information and useful links.

5-6 weeks

- Feeding: Feed gruel 4 times a day. Thicken the gruel gradually by reducing the amount of water mixed with it. Introduce dry food and water. If you are fostering a litter with their mother, 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 meat flavor of baby food 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.
- Behavior and training: At about five 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.

6-7 weeks

- Feeding: By this age the puppies should be eating dry food well. Feed the puppies at least three meals daily. 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 and training: 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 or outside after meals, during play sessions, and after naps. These are the usual times that puppies need to eliminate.
- Spay / neuter: puppies can be spayed and neutered from 6 weeks of age; many veterinarians will also have a weight limit. For instance, some veterinarians request that the puppy have a minimum bodyweight of 2 lbs before being brought in for a spay / neuter procedure.

7-8 weeks

- Feeding: Offer dry food 3 - 4 times a day. Leave down a bowl of water for them to eat and drink at will. If you have a litter with a bitch, she should only be allowing brief nursing sessions, if any. Do not feed the puppies table scraps.

8+ weeks

- Feeding: Offer dry food 3 times a day. Leave down a bowl of water for them to eat and drink at will.
- Behavior and training: By the end of this week, prepare yourself to find them homes or return them to the facility where they came from.

Keeping Puppies Healthy

A healthy puppy has bright eyes, a nice coat, and a plump belly. Younger puppies are content to sleep between feedings. As they approach 8 weeks they begin to spend more time playing. Normal body temperature for a puppy is 100 - 102.5. Unfortunately, puppies do become ill and sometimes die while being fostered, so it is important to take steps to prevent disease and treat it appropriately as soon as it appears.

A note about treating your puppy: In general, if you have consulted with a veterinarian and need to treat a puppy, try to medicate him in an impersonal way. If you hold the puppy in your



lap to medicate him, he will associate being picked up with being medicated and in worst case become scared every time you go to cuddle him. It is better to put the puppy up on a countertop, maybe wrapping him in a towel to administer medication. It is also worth while to give extra praise and if appropriate give him a treat before and after medicating him, as this will help ease the stress of the situation and may even result in a positive association to medication time.

Recognizing illness; when to call a veterinarian?

If you have a sick puppy, you should always call a veterinarian to discuss the problem. They may advise you to come in with the puppy for examination rather than provide you with general advice over the phone.

One of the first steps you can take to evaluate your puppy's health is to take its temperature. To take the temperature of your puppy, you will need a regular human thermometer and some KY Jelly. Wipe KY on the thermometer and insert just the tip into the puppy's anus. Hold it there for at least a minute and then read. If the puppy's temperature is over 103 or under 99, it is important to call the veterinarian.

Before leaving a veterinary facility, always ask for a copy of the treatment sheet. Information on this sheet is important for future follow-up treatment.

If a foster puppy should die, you should keep the body cool but not frozen and transport it to the facility where it came from so that a full autopsy can be performed.

Abnormal signs to watch for in a puppy:

- Continuous diarrhea
- Continuous vomiting



- Constant crying
- Reduced nursing
- Reduced activity
- Bleeding of any kind: nose, urine, stool
- Any trauma: hit by car, dropped, limping, stepped on, unconscious

Specific disease conditions in puppies:

- Diarrhea

Diarrhea is common in puppies and may be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes (too concentrated formula, new brand of formula, etc), stress, overfeeding, and other causes. If the diarrhea is mild and the puppy is otherwise alert and playful, you can try giving it less food but more often and monitor closely. Also ensure that the puppy gets a lot of fluid as they are prone to dehydration if not. This can be done by diluting the formula with extra water, or providing the puppy with clean water either in a saucer or in a bottle/syringe if the puppy does not yet drink from a saucer. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 3 or 4 feedings, or contains blood or obvious parasites, you should call a veterinarian; if possible you should also bring a sample of its feces in a Ziploc bag.

- Vomiting

If your puppy is vomiting, it is possible that the puppy is eating his meals too quickly. You should watch him when he eats and not allow him to eat too much too quickly. If your puppy vomits 2-3 times in a row, see a veterinarian as this could be a sign of an infectious disease.

- Fading puppies

Once in a while, one or more puppies in a litter that were healthy and vigorous at birth will begin to "fade" after a week or two of life. They will stop growing; lose weight, and stop nursing and crawling. They may cry continuously and lose the ability to stay upright. The mother dog may push them out of the nest, where

they often chill and starve to death. Puppies fade very quickly - they will not last 48 hours without veterinary care - and many will not recover even with intensive care.

Often there is no clear cause for this condition - it has been linked to birth defects, environmental stress and infectious disease.

Early veterinary treatment is imperative, but even with tube feeding, rehydration and monitoring, many, if not most, fading puppies will die.

- Fleas

Fleas are insects that love to feed on puppies. Although each flea only consumes a small drop of blood, fleas commonly attack in large numbers and an infestation can literally lead to anemia and even death in young puppies. It is therefore essential that your home be free of fleas before bringing home a small puppy.

The Life Cycle of the Flea:

Adult fleas lay eggs, which usually drop off their animal host and accumulate in alarming numbers where the animal spends a lot of time. Dog houses, carpets, sofas and other such places are often good nesting grounds for flea eggs. Under ideal conditions, eggs hatch in 1 - 2 days or for 3 - 4 weeks before hatching. Flea eggs hatch into a larval stage which feeds on debris and organic matter and lives freely in the environment outdoors or in your home.

Larvae can be effectively treated with concentrated insecticides.

The larvae can develop into adult fleas in 5 days. Adult fleas prefer furry animals, but may feed on people as well. The common flea is hardy; it can live up to 4 months without feeding, and has a life span of up to 2 years. Fleas feed on their animal hosts, but spend most of their time off the animal. For every flea that you see, there are probably at least 100 lurking somewhere else in your home. Fortunately, the adult flea is the most sensitive to flea products.

How to Control Fleas:

If your foster puppy already has fleas, it is important to remove them without harming the dog. One safe way to remove fleas from



very young puppies (less than 6 - 8 weeks) is daily flea combing. If the puppy is less than 6 weeks old and is heavily infected, a flea bath may be necessary to save its life. The puppy must be kept warm at all times. Use warm water and immediately towel it dry afterwards. Then follow up with a heating lamp or warm hair dryer until the puppy is completely dry, be careful not to burn the puppy. Use a shampoo labeled as safe for puppies. You can also use flea powder mixed in equal amounts with talcum powder, or a 2.5 % carbaryl powder product.

If the puppy is 4 Weeks old and 2 lbs or more; Capstar can be given orally up to once a day to kill adult fleas. This product starts to work within 90 minutes and is effective against adult fleas for 4-6 hours. It does not have any affect on eggs, larvae, or other adult fleas in the puppies' environment.

If the puppy is older than 6 weeks you can use topical one-time/month applications available from a veterinarian.

All bedding needs to be washed in hot soapy water as soon as fleas are spotted. The most effective way to remove eggs from the house is by using a vacuum cleaner. The vacuum bag should first be treated by placing flea powder, a piece of flea collar, or flea spray inside it. The bag should be emptied immediately after vacuuming. To kill adults and larvae, the house can be treated with flea foggers or sprays, boric acid products, or other commercial products.

- Kennel cough

Kennel cough is an extremely contagious respiratory disease that is often seen in animal shelters. Puppies with kennel cough typically cough or sneeze, and have nasal discharge. Kennel cough is often difficult for puppies to overcome, any puppy that is coughing or sneezing repeatedly, or has nasal and/or eye discharge requires veterinary attention.

- Ringworm



Ringworm is actually caused by a fungus, related to athlete's foot. On people and dogs, ringworm is most often shaped in a regular ring. The dog's fur will often fall out, leaving a round bare spot with a visible ring. Ringworm causes little distress and is not an emergency, but it is contagious to cats, dogs, and people. If you or your pets contract ringworm, you will need to seek treatment from your doctor and veterinarian (respectively). Everything the puppies touched while in your home will need to be disinfected with a bleach solution (at least 1 part bleach to 10 parts water, equivalent to 1+1/2 cup of bleach per gallon of water) or steam cleaned, it is recommended to repeat cleaning as ringworm spores are very hardy and can easily spread among other dogs and re-infect their hosts. If you have fostered a litter with ringworm, you should thoroughly clean and disinfect the area they were kept in and if you decide to foster another litter it is recommended to keep them in a different room than the ringworm infected litter. Please see our [Guidebook](#) for more information and useful links.