



PENSACOLA
HUMANE SOCIETY™

PUPPIES AND MOM FOSTER HERO GUIDE





FIRST AND FOREMOST, THANK YOU!

You are about to embark on a journey to save one of our most vulnerable populations - puppies. In this packet you'll find all the information you should need to raise and care for neonatal puppies, moms with litters, and a puppy's track through the Pensacola Humane Society from foster to adoption.

YOUR FOSTER COORDINATOR

Aly Martinez 850-270-3136
foster@pensacolahumane.org

FOSTER RESOURCE PAGE

Be sure to log onto our Foster Resource Page and take a moment to look through all of the resources provided there. You'll be able to find contact information our foster superheroes as well as all of our app links.

www.pensacolahumane.org/fosterresources

login: foster

password: fosterhero

APPOINTMENTS

Acuity is our scheduling app where we direct fosters to make all wellness, drop off and pick up appointments.

www.calendly.com/phsfosters



TRELLO

Trello is our web-based board where we post all of our animals in need of foster, as well as showing the ones who have already been placed.

When it comes to neonates, we will typically send an email to find fosters quickly.



FACEBOOK

If you are on Facebook, be sure to join our private foster group, Pensacola Humane Society Foster Heroes!

www.facebook.com/groups/fosterhero



VOLUNTEER HOURS

The Pensacola Humane Society awards 12 volunteer hours per day. If you need a letter acknowledging these hours please email the foster team at foster@pensacolahumane.org

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The foster team also has several volunteer positions that always need filling, from photography and marketing to admin assistant. Email the foster team for more information! foster@pensacolahumane.org

We can also always use volunteers physically at the shelter. To apply visit- www.pensacolahumane.org/volunteer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

↑	Emergency Guide	....04
	Fading Puppy Protocol	....05
	Common Medical Issues	....06
	Common Medications	....08
↓	Recommeneded Supplies	....09
↑	Puppies	
	Getting Started with Puppies	....10
	The Puppy Timeline	....12
	Bottle Feeding Guide and Etiquette	....14
	Tube feeding	....17
	Weaning	....18
↑	Moms	
	Getting Started	....17
↓	Labor Walk Through	....18
↑	Marketing and Adoption	
	Puppies: Marketing, Foster-to-Adopt, Surgery	....19
↓	Moms: Marketing and Surgery	....20



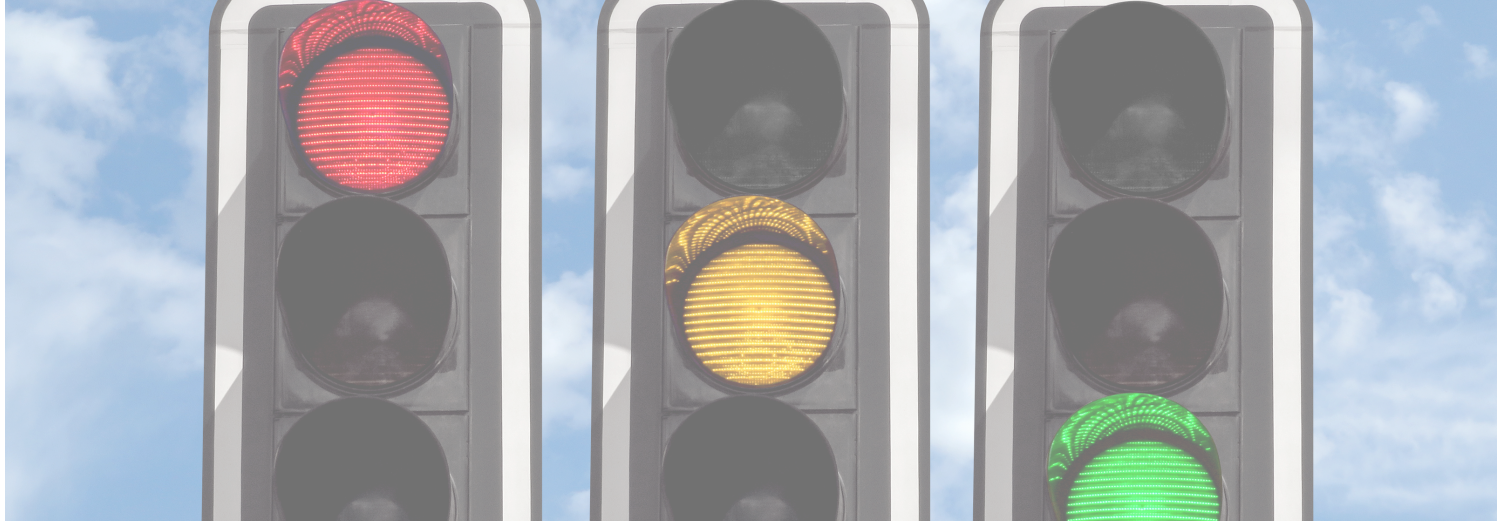
Things To Keep In Mind While Fostering

DO

- Love your fosters and enjoy your time with them!
- Keep an open line of communication between yourself, your SuperHero and the Foster Team
- Always continue handling and training your foster
- Advocate for your fosters
- Market your fosters everywhere and anywhere you can imagine!

DONT

- Leave your foster with anyone outside of the PHS foster program
- Leave town with your foster without PHS approval first
- Leave puppies outside unsupervised
- Take your foster to your own vet
- Let your foster interact with public animals
- Fail to report any medical concerns or injuries to your foster team



EMERGENCIES HAPPEN, NOW WHAT?

GREEN LIGHT EMERGENCIES: TEXT FOSTER SUPERHERO OR SEND AN EMAIL TO THE FOSTER ADMIN FOSTER@PENSACOLAHUMANE.ORG

- Hot Spot/Rash
- Light coughing/sneezing
- Single episode of vomiting/diarrhea
- Dirty ears
- Fleas
- Visible worms in stool
- Trouble urinating
- Watery eyes

YELLOW LIGHT EMERGENCIES: SEND TEXT TO SUPERHERO OR FOSTER ADMIN

- Multiple diarrhea/vomiting episodes
- Chewed or removed sutures
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Limping
- Cut or puncture
- Any act of aggression
- Light blood in stool
- Colored/thick discharge from nose or eyes
- Dark colored urine

RED LIGHT EMERGENCIES: IMMEDIATE PHONE CALL TO ALY MARTINEZ 850.270.3136 OR MELISSA GARRETT 850.206.9175

- Severe trauma
- LOST foster animal
- Ingestion of toxic plants/chemicals/medications
- Dog bite on humans or animals
- Unresponsive
- Difficulty breathing
- Seizure/Disorientation
- Distended abdomen
- Profusely bleeding from any orifice

DEATH OF A FOSTER

If a foster passes away while in your care wrap them in a paper towel or small hand towel you are okay parting with, place them inside of a zip bag. Write the fosters name on the outside of the bag and place in freezer until you can bring the animal to PHS to be cremated.

MOST MEDICAL NEEDS WILL BE HANDLED BY OUR MEDICAL STAFF AT OUR ADOPTION CENTER OR OUR CLINIC. IF WE CANNOT HANDLE IT IN HOUSE WE WILL DIRECT YOU TO THE APPROPRIATE VETERINARIAN AND FOLLOWING STEPS. DO NOT TAKE YOUR FOSTER TO AN OUTSIDE VETERINARIAN.

FADING PUPPY SYNDROME

Fading Puppy Syndrome is a life-threatening emergency in which a puppy, sometimes one that was previously healthy, “crashes” and begins to fade away.

Symptoms

- Low Body Temperature – the puppy feels cool or cold to the touch
- Extreme Lethargy – not getting up, unable to stand, not responding to touching/petting
- Gasping for Breath – whimpering/crying out

Cause

- Hypothermia – being too cold
- Hypoglycemia – blood sugar is too low

WHEN THIS HAPPENS, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU TAKE THESE STEPS IMMEDIATELY!

Step 1:

- Get them warm:
- Create a “burrito” towel. Immediately wrap the puppy up in a towel like a burrito leaving only their face exposed (their whole body, tail, ears, and paws should be in the towel, only nose and mouth out). Do not take the puppy out of the towel to adjust them, check on them, etc. Every time you take them out, you will risk making them cold again, even if it is only for a second.
- Wrap a heating pad turned on low around the burrito towel, to avoid burns, as an extra source of heat. Secure it around the towel so it stays in place.

Step 2:

- Get their blood sugar up:
- Get a bowl or Tupperware container and add a few tablespoons of sugar in hot water.
- Stir so that the sugar dissolves – you want the mixture to be thick but still runny
- In a pinch, Karo syrup can also be used as a substitute.
- Use a syringe or your finger to give 3 drops of the mixture every 3 minutes into the mouth. If they are not swallowing, try not to get it down their throat. Aim for their gums or tongue.
- Set a timer to make sure that you are doing this at least every 3 minutes. Every 5 to 10 minutes is too long and they will continue to crash.

Step 3:

- Notify the foster team:
- Send a text to Aly – There will not be extra advice for you, this is the most that can be done but we do need to be made aware of what is going on. We do not send neonates to veterinarian's offices because these offices are kept cold and the staff does not have the ability to feed them as described above on short notice.
- If you have to leave while a puppy is crashing, please let us know so that we can make other arrangements.

It can take hours for puppies in this condition to improve. Once they have shown marked improvement they can return to their normal activities. You should continue to monitor them for any reoccurrences.

Keep in mind that even with love, attention and treatment, some puppies still will not make it. Try not to blame yourself during this difficult time. Any foster puppy that you have cared for was given a second chance at life BECAUSE OF YOU. Their chances at survival are much higher with you, than they are left at the shelter. The Foster Team knows that you did everything you could for every puppy in your care.

COMMON MEDICAL ISSUES

Neonates do not have fully developed immune systems and are susceptible to many illnesses and parasites, some of which they get from their mother at birth. Puppies need proper care and attention to ensure they grow up happy and healthy.



Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)/Kennel Cough

The term "upper respiratory infection" describes any illness that affects a animal's respiratory system; think of a puppy cold. URIs are very common in shelter environments. Symptoms include coughing(hacking), sneezing, ocular/nasal discharge, fever, and loss of appetite. URIs are treated with antibiotics. It is very important to keep puppies hydrated and warm while they recover from an upper respiratory infection. URIs are also very contagious (airborne) and you should be extra careful to sanitize between handling your sick animals and any healthy ones as well as the supplies they use, especially food/water dishes.

Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious virus that can affect all dogs, but unvaccinated dogs and puppies younger than four months old are the most at risk. The virus affects dogs' gastrointestinal tracts and is spread by direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with contaminated feces (stool), environments, or people. It is resistant to all temperatures and can survive in it's environment for long periods of time. It is extremely important to thoroughly and deeply sanitize anything used or touched by an infected dog. Gloves/gown should be worn at all times when handling an infected animal and discarded properly and immediately. Some of the signs of parvovirus include lethargy, loss of appetite, abdominal pain and bloating, fever or low body temperature (hypothermia), vomiting, and severe (often times)bloody diarrhea. Persistent vomiting and diarrhea can cause rapid dehydration, and damage to the intestines and immune system can cause septic shock.

Distemper

Canine distemper is a contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of puppies and dogs. Symptoms include watery to pus-like discharge from eyes, fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, and vomiting. As the virus attacks the nervous system, infected dogs develop circling behavior, head tilt, muscle twitches, convulsions with jaw chewing movements and salivation, seizures, and partial or complete paralysis. The virus may also cause the footpads to thicken and harden. Distemper is often fatal, and dogs that survive usually have permanent, irreparable nervous system damage.



Canine Parainfluenza

Canine parainfluenza virus (CPIV) is a highly contagious respiratory virus. The symptoms of Parainfluenza are coughing(wet or dry cough), fever, bloody or mucous nasal discharge, and lethargy. While there is only one type of parainfluenza virus infection in dogs, the virus itself can be a component of other canine infectious respiratory diseases (kennel cough for example).

COMMON MEDICAL ISSUES CONTINUED

Demodex Mange

Demodex mange is caused by a parasitic mite that lives in the hair follicles of dogs. All normal dogs have a few of these mites on their skin. We see this in puppies a lot because a poor or immature immune system allows the number of mites to rapidly increase. It's also seen often in dogs that are neglected because their immune system weakens. The main symptoms of demodex mange are hair loss and dry skin. Treatment can vary depending on the age and size of the dog but can include oral medications, topical medications and medicated baths. It is not contagious to people or other animals.

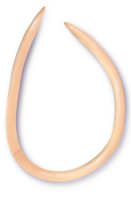


Worms

Puppies often have internal parasites like coccidia, hookworms, roundworms and tape worms. It is important that we get these parasites treated as soon as possible. Symptoms can include diarrhea, vomiting and nausea. While coccidia, hookworms and roundworms can't be seen in the stool tapeworms can be seen. Tapeworms break apart and normally come out of the body in segments that resemble little grains of rice.

~1/8 inch

~8 inches



Hookworm



Tapeworm

Segment in feces (1/4 inch)

3-6 inches

2-3 inches



Roundworm



Whipworm



Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungus that initially presents itself as round scaly patches of skin. You will most often find it starting out on the feet, tails, ears or face. It is contagious to people and other animals through touch. If untreated the fungus will cause body wide hair loss and skin irritation. Treatment typically takes around 21 days and quarantine is mandatory.

COMMON MEDICATIONS

Medications should only be given at the direction of the Pensacola Humane Society Foster Team or their medical staff.

Giving Liquid Oral Medications

The foster team will typically have your oral medications dosed out in syringes for you so that you don't have to worry about drawing up the correct amounts. Hold the puppy in your non-dominant hand and hold the syringe in your dominant hand. Placing them on a table or counter may be easier than holding them in your lap. Having two people (one holding the pup and one plunging the syringe) will always make things go a little more smoothly as well.

Place the syringe into the side of the puppy's mouth and angle the syringe towards the throat - be careful not to gag or choke them. Depress the syringe slowly to feed the medication into the puppy's mouth. Try not to draw the process out but be sure to not go so quickly that you overwhelm, choke or have them spit out the medication, causing a missed dose.

**When giving doxycycline, follow the medication with the same amount of water in a syringe. Doxycycline can irritate and burn the throat and esophagus and it's important to chase the medication with water to prevent damage.*

Panacur

Panacur is an oral dewormer that treats coccidia, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms.

Fortiflora

Fortiflora is a probiotic that improves gut health and can help with diarrhea.

Itraconazole

Itraconazole is an oral anti fungal medication commonly used to treat symptoms affecting the skin, like yeast and ringworm.

Lime-Sulfur Dip

Lime-sulfur dip is a topical bath that is used to treat ringworm

Nebulizing

Nebulizers can be used for puppies with upper respiratory infections, similar to people using an inhaler or mask, to administer an aerosolized medication mist that they inhale. Dogs are typically placed in a manipulated box that the nebulizer is hooked up to instead of using a face mask like you'd see for humans.

Ponazuril

Ponazuril is an oral dewormer that treats neospora, coccidia and toxoplasma.

Doxycycline

Doxycycline is an oral antibiotic that we commonly use to treat upper respiratory symptoms.

Penicillin

Penicillin is an injectable broad spectrum antibiotic.

Ketoconazole

Ketoconazole is a topical antifungal - we typically use this to treat ringworm.



RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

These are some of the supplies that the Pensacola Humane Society Foster team requires that you have when fostering puppies. We will do our best to send all necessary supplies with you but you may need to supplement with your own supplies.



Bottle Babies 0-5 weeks

- Bottle
- Syringe
- Appropriate size nipple
- Puppy Formula
- Blender bottle
- Heating Pad(no auto off)/Snuggle Safe
- Digital scale (needs to weigh in grams)
- Thermometer and lubricant
- Baby wipes
- Top open cat carrier/Tub with no lid



Gruelie Babies 5-7 weeks

- Canned puppy food, we feed Purina One
- Hard puppy food, we feed Purina One
- Puppy Formula
- Kennel or playpen
- Digital scale (needs to weigh in grams)
- Harness/leash to begin introducing
- Puppy pads to line their area
- Large kennel/playpen to safely contain
- Safe and PHS approved chew toys



Puppies 8+ weeks

- Canned puppy food, we feed Purina One
- Hard puppy food, we feed Purina One
- We recommend early basic training to begin at this stage.
- Harness/leash
- Large kennel/playpen to safely contain
- Safe and PHS approve chew toys



Pregnant/Nursing Mom

- Canned puppy food, we feed Purina One
- Hard puppy food, we feed Purina One
- Bottle & nipple
- Puppy Formula
- Carrier for transportation (for babies)
- Heating Pad(no auto off)/Snuggle Safe
- Digital scale (needs to weigh in grams)
- Baby wipes
- Empty room or large kennel to isolate mom and babies
- A whelping box that mom can get in and out of easily but babies cannot

GETTING STARTED WITH PUPPIES

SETTING UP YOUR ROOM

Puppies 0-4 weeks

Puppies 4 weeks and under should be kept strictly in a carrier, or a rubbermaid tub without a lid. You should have a heat source such as a heating pad (without the auto off function) or a snuggle safe. Place a blanket between or towel between the puppies and the heating source. The heat source should not cover the entire space, so that the puppy can move towards and away from the heat as necessary. Without external heat your puppy will fail to thrive.



Puppies 5-7 weeks

Puppies 5-7 weeks of age should be kept in their own space but can be moved from their previous carrier or tub to a larger area like a dog kennel, or playpen. They're still too young to have free roam of a room all day and need to be monitored regularly. You'll also want to have pee pads or sheets down now that puppies are moving onto gruel and wet food. It's best to still provide a heat source for them as well during this stage.



Puppies 8+ weeks

Puppies 8 weeks should still be kept in a kennel or playpen any time they are unsupervised. Not only are they not housetrained at this point they will eat anything and everything on the ground; from your house to dropped medications. Keeping them kenneled is keeping them and your home safe from any accidents.

GETTING STARTED WITH PUPPIES: TIPS AND RULES FOR SUCCESS

Common Household Hazards

- Reclining/Rocking chairs - puppies can easily crawl up/inside /under and become injured.
- Toilets - keep lids closed at all times
- Bathtubs - keep water drained at all times
- Doors - open doors slowly and cautiously
- House plants - many are toxic to dogs
- Cords - we recommend removing or covering any accessible cords.
- Outlets - Keep covered
- Other animals - they can injure puppies or transmit diseases to them.
- Appliances - these often have crawl spaces and wires
- Small objects - these can be choked on, be sure your space is tidy
- Strings/Rubber bands/Hair Ties - choking hazard
- Chemicals/Cleaning products - make sure that all chemicals are removed from the space.

WEIGH YOUR PUPPIES!

Puppies 0-4 weeks should be weighed at each feeding until they have transitioned completely to wet food. Puppies 5+ weeks of age that are eating fine on their own should be weighed daily. Remember that a stagnant weight or weight loss is one of the first sign of illness in puppies. Weights should be sent to the foster team at foster@pensacolahumane.org **every Friday**. See the last page of this guide for an example of a feeding and weight chart.

*it is not uncommon for puppies to drop a little bit of weight when they begin transitioning to food and are becoming more mobile/learning to play.

Pictures of Your Fosters

Once weekly you should send updated pictures of each of your puppies. Starting at six weeks you are required to submit three photos of your puppies weekly until they are adopted or until they come into stay at the shelter. This should include one face photo, one full body photo and one personality photo. Pictures can be submitted via email foster@pensacolahumane.org or via our private facebook group Pensacola Humane Society Foster Heroes. Starting at six weeks your puppies are eligible for our foster-to-adopt program - see the marketing and adoption section for more information on eligibility requirements.

Other Common Helpful To-Know's

- It is natural for puppies to suckle on each other or on your fingers, even after they've finished eating. This is harmless unless you're noticing that it is causing irritation to another puppy's skin or is directed towards other puppies genitals. Contact your foster team right away to see if the puppy needs to be separated. Suckling on the genitals can cause scar tissue and complications that could require surgery to repair.
- Water drives all metabolic functions in dogs (and people) and their bodies cannot function properly if they are dehydrated. Diarrhea, vomiting and not eating enough are the key indicators of dehydration and should be reported to the foster team immediately. Dehydration can be life threatening.
- Puppies should not be left outside unattended at any time!
- **UNDERAGE PUPPIES SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE SHELTER. IF YOU CAN NO LONGER CARE FOR THEM LET THE FOSTER TEAM KNOW SO THAT THEY CAN BE PLACED IN A NEW FOSTER HOME RIGHT AWAY.**

THE PUPPY TIMELINE

Puppies should eat 8 mLs per ounce of body weight. Ex: a 4 oz puppy should eat 32 mLs of formula. This is a guide, not a rule. If a puppy is struggling with eating, maintaining attempts every hour is important rather than extending the time between feedings. Once on track, maintain the normal 2-3 hour feedings.

Puppies are vaccinated every 2 weeks starting at 4 weeks & 1 lb, below is a guide but keep in mind that your schedule may be skewed depending on when your puppy was intaken. Your team will keep you updated!

WEEKS

0-1

FEEDING

Bottle feed formula every 2-3 hours. If there is a mom dog, make sure that all puppies are nursing. Puppies can nurse from mom for up to 45 minutes at a time. A lot of crying or activity could indicate a problem with Mom's milk supply. See our bottlefeeding guide for more info.

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies will weigh about 90-100 grams at birth. Puppies will sleep about 90% of the time and eat the rest of the time. Handle the Puppies minimally. Newborns are deaf and blind and are unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep puppies warm. Umbilical cord will continue to dry and fall off on its own.

MEDICAL

Puppies are not old enough for medical intervention or regular vaccinations or treatments at this age.

1-2

FEEDING

Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until they are full but not bloated.

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies should have doubled their birth weight. Ear canals open between 5-8 days. Eyes open between 8-14 days. Healthy puppies will be round and warm and have pink skin. Healthy puppies seldom cry. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep puppies warm.

MEDICAL

Puppies are old enough for medical intervention as determined necessary by our medical staff. They are too young for regular treatments or vaccinations at this age.

2-3

FEEDING

Bottle feed every 3-4 hours.

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies will begin to crawl and stand between 18-21 days old. Their weight will depend on their breed. They begin to play with each other at this age too! Increase handling of puppies to get them used to human contact. Ensure that all interactions are gentle and positive. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature, keep warm.

MEDICAL

Puppies are old enough for medical intervention as determined necessary by our medical staff. They are too young for regular treatments or vaccinations at this age.

3-4

FEEDING

Bottle feed every 3-4 hours until puppies are full but not bloated. Overnight feedings can be every 4 hours. Puppies may start lapping from a bowl.

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies begin to see well at this age. They may start cleaning themselves but will still need help for serious cleaning. Litter box training may begin at 4 weeks of age. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature.

MEDICAL

Puppies are old enough for medical intervention as determined necessary by our medical staff. They are too young for regular treatments or vaccinations at this age.

WEEKS**4-5****FEEDING**

Feed every 4-5 hours, if they are not interested in weaning, continue to bottle feed. Weaning of puppies may begin gradually. See feeding guidelines and weaning puppies section for more information on transitioning your bottle babies to gruelie babies. Remember it is better to feed more often than not enough!

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies should weigh will depend on their age and they will be active little puppies at this time.

MEDICAL

Puppies are old enough to begin their receive regular vaccinations and treatments. Their first exam will consist of two vaccinations, a microchip and their first dose of dewormer. You'll make this appointment once they reach 1 lb using the following link www.calendly.com/phsfosters

5-6**FEEDING**

Weaning should be easier now. Feed gruel 4 times a day. Introduce dry food and water as well. You may also experiment with PLAIN meat (no spices added) baby food to help with the transition.

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies can start to wander around the room, under supervision. Play with your puppies often! View our Fear Free Puppies Socialization Hand Out to get ideas on how to grow your puppy into a well rounded dog!

MEDICAL

Puppies are not due for regular vaccinations or treatments this week.

6-7**FEEDING**

Feed canned food at least 3 times daily and have dry food available at all times. If any puppies are territorial with food, provide a second bowl so that everyone gets fed.

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies will start to act like actual dogs; playing and grooming themselves. Be sure to show them the puppy pad or take them outside after meals, play sessions, and naps. Chewing on inappropriate items should be corrected by giving the puppy an appropriate object to play with and chew up.

MEDICAL

Puppies are due for their boosters this week, if they have reached 1.5 lbs they will receive flea prevention as well. If they have not hit this weight requirement we will do flea prevention at week 8. If your puppy did not have dewormer prior we will send you home with three days of dewormer.

PUPPIES THAT ARE 6 WEEKS OLD, WEIGH 1.5 LBS, HAVE 2 BOOSTERS AND ARE GENERALLY HEALTHY ARE AVAILABLE FOR FOSTER-TO-ADOPT

7-8**FEEDING**

Feed canned food at least 2 times daily. If any puppies are territorial with food, provide a second bowl so that everyone is being fed. Begin leaving dry food out at all times. Remember to be weighing your puppies!

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies are maturing and growing more. They will be active and exploring like toddlers do.

MEDICAL

Puppies are not due for regular vaccinations or boosters this week

8-9**FEEDING**

Feed canned food at least 2 times daily. If any puppies are territorial with food, provide a second bowl so that everyone is being fed. Begin leaving dry food out at all times. Remember to be weighing your puppies!

DEVELOPMENT

Puppies are growing and will soon be teenagers.

MEDICAL

Puppies are due for their boosters this week. The foster team will schedule your puppy for surgery around this time.

STEP BY STEP BOTTLE FEEDING AND ETIQUETTE

Step One: Preparing Your Formula & Bottle

Never give a neonate anything other than the specified formula. **NO COWS MILK!** Puppies digestive systems are fragile and they should only be on the recommended formula/food, unless told otherwise by PHS's veterinarian or foster team. No treats or table food. If you start them on a specific brand of formula, it is best to stick with that type. Switching formulas can cause discomfort, gas, diarrhea, and intestinal issues.



When preparing your formula, be sure to follow the mixing instructions, although if you need to transition puppies from moms milk to formula, the chart below can be helpful in preventing diarrhea, constipation and an upset gut. Mixed formula can be kept in the refrigerator for up to **THREE DAYS**, after that it must be disposed of. Unmixed powdered formula can be stored in the refrigerator for four months and six months in the freezer once opened. Always make sure that your formula is completely mixed and there are no clumps. We recommend using a blender bottle to ensure this. Only use clean, sterilized nipples, bottles and blender bottles when feeding.

After mixing your formula and filling the bottle or syringe, place hot water in a cup and let the bottle/syringe with formula rest inside to bring the milk to the temperature of your skin. A bottle warmer works great as well. Gently swirl formula to mix it well after heating. Discard any unused formula from each feeding. **DO NOT REHEAT.**

Should you have to transition puppies from moms milk to formula, use the following mixing chart to prevent diarrhea:

- First four feedings 8 parts water to 1 parts formula
- Second four feedings 4 parts water to 1 parts formula
- All subsequent feedings should be as the formula directions instruct or 2 parts water to 1 parts formula

Step Two: Stimulate Your Puppy

Helping your puppy to eliminate before feeding will ensure that they can eat the entire amount that they need to as it will prevent the puppy from feeling full too early. They are too young to eliminate regularly on their own. To stimulate, take a warm wash cloth, cotton ball, tissue or baby wipe and gently rub at the genitals and rectum until the puppy stops peeing and pooping. They should urinate at every feeding. Neonates may start out pooping once a day but the frequency should continue to increase regularly. Normal neonate stool colors will be brown with a slight yellow cast. Stool should come out easily, it should be soft but retain it's shape. Diarrhea and constipation are both dangerous in neonates.

*If you think your puppy is constipated, you can massage their abdomen in a warm bath or add a tiny drop of olive oil/mineral oil to one of their feedings to loosen things up. If your puppy has diarrhea you can slightly decrease the amount of water in the formula to help the puppy firm up. If these tips do not help let your foster team know by email foster@pensacolahumane.org.

STEP BY STEP BOTTLE FEEDING AND ETIQUETTE

Step 3: Weigh Your Puppy

Always weigh your puppy before feeding them. An easy way to calculate how much the pup ate, instead of trying to decipher those tiny lines on the syringe or bottle, is to weigh them after they eat and subtract the two numbers. Final weight - initial weight = amount eaten. It's easiest to weigh your kitten by placing a bowl on your scale, hitting the tare button so that your scale forgets the weight of the bowl and then placing your puppy inside the bowl so that they can't squirm or crawl off the scale while you're waiting for their weight to register.

Record your initial weight at each feeding, these weights are to be sent to the foster team via email **every friday**. This is mandatory, so that we do not miss any decline in health. The final page of this guide is a feeding and weight chart, you don't have to use this exact chart but it is a good guide to follow.



Step 4: Feeding Your Puppy

Feed babies one at a time. Place them on a counter top/lap and allow them to feed with four paws down with a level head up. This simulates how they would nurse from mom. Some neonates may knead and try to grab your hand or bottle. This is normal, allow them to nurse as they are comfortable. NEVER feed a neonate on their back. This can cause the formula to go down the wrong tube and lead to aspiration.

Puppies 0-1 weeks should feed from a syringe and then transition to a bottle as milk from a bottle comes out a bit quicker. Some foster parents prefer to continue with using oral syringes, which is fine, your puppy kit should have several different sizes so that they can grow with your pup. Change syringes often, as they will begin to stick and can cause frustration or the syringe can suddenly give, causing too much milk to enter the puppy's mouth.

You can gently open the puppy's mouth with your finger and place the nipple into its mouth directly on its tongue if necessary. Pull lightly on the bottle/syringe to promote strong sucking. It's important to tilt the bottle to prevent them from swallowing air. You should never squeeze the bottle, a latched puppy will suckle at a rate that they can handle. Squeezing can cause aspiration which can lead to further complications. A latched puppy's ears will wiggle, their tongue will form a u-shape and you'll hear tell-tale suckling from them. Be cautious about your puppy over eating - they should look like little pears but not appear bloated. 10-15mls each feeding is the most they should consume at a time. Be sure to log how much your pup ate after each meal. After feeding, stroke the pup's back to help them burp. Using a toothbrush here works great and simulates a mom's tongue!

Puppies should eat roughly 5mLs per 100 grams of body weight.

If milk comes out of a puppy's nose, it is aspirating. Pups are pretty good at clearing milk from their lungs on their own most of the time. Set the puppy down and allow it to begin breathing normally, which should take a few seconds. Notate this on their feeding chart when it happens.

ALWAYS SANITIZE THE AREA AND YOUR FEEDING TOOLS BEFORE AND AFTER FEEDING

STEP BY STEP BOTTLE FEEDING AND ETIQUETTE

Other Tips, Tricks and Things to Keep in Mind

- If your puppy is acting ravenous, decrease the time in between feedings until this behavior subsides. Ravenous behaviors can cause them to choke, inhale formula, or become uncomfortably bloated.
- If your puppy does not seem interested in eating, give them a short break and try again after a few minutes to an hour. Continue trying often until they eat. Be sure to log these habits.
- Some puppies do not know how to nurse off of a bottle and it can take a few rounds before they get the hang of it. That's okay and normal. Frustration happens but always remember to STAY PATIENT!
- If pup isn't latching, make sure you are checking the temp of the formula and the puppy itself. Formula must be body temp or slightly warmer and if a pup is too hot or cold themselves, they may not eat. Adjust accordingly.
- Research shows that a puppy's suckling reflexes are strongest when they first wake up. That's the best time to comfort and feed! Especially if you have a fussy eater.
- If your puppy does not seem to be getting enough formula and appears distressed, you can make the hole in the nipple *slightly* larger. The formula should drip slowly when held upside down.
- If your puppy is on medication, give it after they have eaten, unless told otherwise, to prevent upsetting the stomach. Some medications can be mixed with formula as its vehicle - ask your foster team if this is okay.
- Keeping your formula container in the freezer will help with longevity and help prevent clumps.
- Some pups feel secure, focused and may nurse better when they are slightly swaddled in a blanket or towel, especially if they are flailing their arms around a bit.
- Rubbing the puppy's face with a washcloth or toothbrush mimics a mother's tongue and may help prepare them for meal times.
- Always wipe any leftover milk from the their face. This will help keep their fur soft and clean around the face to prevent any hair loss or irritation from old dried milk.
- NEVER feed a puppy who is unresponsive, lethargic, or unable to swallow.
- Feeding puppies inside of their comfy and warm beds is always ideal as well, or a warm countertop versus an unnatural cold surface or your lap.
- Puppies can be competitive and will latch and nurse better when their siblings are around. It's their instinct to fight for survival and food.



TUBE FEEDING GUIDE AND ETIQUETTE

If a puppy is too weak to nurse, has a cleft palate or the mother will not care for a pup, the pet parent may need to tube feed. The necessary equipment includes the appropriate sized soft pliable catheter (your foster team or PHS medical staff will get you the right size), syringes to hold formula, a marking pen, formula and a bottle to potentially graduate to.

How to Tube Feed

After weighing each animal and determining the amount to feed (5% of the puppy's body weight), measure each individual animal from the nostril to the last rib for the feeding tube. This is the length of feeding tube you will insert. Mark this length on the tube. Tubes should only be used on one puppy each. The following steps should be repeated each and every day that the animal(s) will be tube fed formula.

Draw up slightly more formula into the syringe and catheter than is needed for the animal. Be sure to plunge the syringe a bit to get rid of any air bubbles. Place the animal belly down on a towel in your lap with the head and chest on a slight upward incline. You can also burrito them if necessary. Hold the back of the animal's head gently. Open the animal's mouth with that same hand. Direct the tube into the front of the animal's mouth (NOT from the side). Do not force the tube to go in. The puppy will reflexively swallow when the tube is at the esophagus. If the pup does not swallow and you force the tube, it could end up in the trachea. Once they swallow, the tube should slide easily to the point you have marked. Once it is in the proper location, *slowly* depress the plunger on the syringe.

The tube should be withdrawn after feeding half of the required meal and the animal should be burped. After burping, reinsert the tube and feed the rest of the meal. Burp the animal again and stimulate for urination and defecation. After the feeding, the animal's abdomen should appear rounded and full.

****Before feeding for the first time, practice drawing up water or formula and depressing the plunger. Note the force of the water or formula as it leaves the catheter. Gently depress the plunger to avoid damaging the animal's stomach wall. It will take practice to handle the syringe, catheter, animal, and formula all at once.***

Keep in Mind While Tube Feeding

- Do not overfeed and over-distend the abdomen. This will be painful, causing it to struggle and cry as well increase the likelihood of gut and intestinal issues.
- If the puppy coughs or gags when you start to depress the plunger, withdraw the feeding tube and start over. You may have the tube in the trachea. If you continue to inject the formula, the animal may get aspiration pneumonia or suffocate.
- If the puppy regurgitates or vomits the food, do not feed it again at that meal. If it occurs for two meals in a row, contact your foster team.
- If there is not a medical condition, try to feed by bottle once or twice a day to reactivate the natural suction that a puppy should have and we hope to have them gain back again.

SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR
PHONE CAMERA TO WATCH A
VIDEO ON TUBE FEEDING



WEANING BOTTLE BABIES TO GRUELIES!

Puppies will begin weaning at about 4-5 weeks when majority of their teeth begin erupting. You may notice that your puppy is ready to wean because they are biting at the nipple on their bottle and seem hungrier than ever. This is a sensitive stage because you may see your pup nibbling on wet or dry food - this does not mean they are eating **enough**. They should eat 5% of their body weight at each feeding

Give pups a shallow dish with warmed gruel at each feeding and let them discover it. Some may take to it right away - some may not. Be patient with them. If they do not begin eating the gruel on their own see the section about syringe feeding gruel. When leaving gruel in their kennel be sure to use water instead of formula to create the gruel as using formula can go bad when left out. During this stage you will also begin leaving out dry food so that they can independently make the transition when they are ready. This stage is one of the messiest - be sure to wipe gruel from the kittens coat to prevent irritated skin and loss of hair!

Making Gruel

Gruel is made with either formula or water and canned puppy food. Formula can help ease the weaning process as puppies are used to the taste and smell of it by now. You will mix either liquid and the canned food until it reaches an applesauce-like consistency. This consistency is important because it ensure the babies are staying hydrated during the weaning process. A good starting ratio is 2 cans of food to 1 can of water or formula for multiples or 1 can of food to 1/2 a can of water for a single pup.

- It is often easiest to mix the gruel in a blender to ensure the right consistency throughout.
- Always store gruel in a covered container in the refrigerator - bacteria can quickly grow when left out.
- Reduce the amount of water gradually until puppies are on pure canned food.

Teaching Puppies About Gruel

Weaned pups need to be fed every 4-5 hours to ensure their blood sugar stays up. They can go 6-8 hours over night but not throughout the day.

- Continue to weigh weaning puppies before each feeding to ensure that they are eating enough.
- Be sure to feed gruel in shallow dishes that kittens can easily reach into.
- Always give them a chance to discover gruel on their own - if they are simply not eating read on about syringe feeding gruel.

Syringe Feeding Gruelies

Gruel made for syringe feeding should have a consistency that better resembles a milkshake and may require less water than gruel being eaten from a dish. This is also where you may try making gruel with meat baby food so that it will flow through the syringe easier. Make sure that gruel is warmed when feeding but not hot.

- Like you would when bottle feeding, make sure the puppy is belly down and you have a loose grip around their head and shoulders. Insert the syringe into the mouth at a 45 degree angle from the side. Feeding from the front can cause choking.
- Slowly plunge the syringe to feed gruel into the puppy's mouth, removing the syringe every few seconds to allow them to swallow. Leading them towards the bowl of gruel will help them learn bowl etiquette and eating on their own as well.
- Weigh pups throughout the feeding, they should eat 5% of their body weight!

For puppies weaning from mom, give them access to wet food several times a day in a shallow dish for them to explore. They will naturally wean themselves when they and mom are ready.

GETTING STARTED WITH MOMS AND BABIES

Setting Up Their Space

Nursing moms should have their own room where they can be isolated with their babies. There should be some sort of whelping box in this room where babies can be confined but mom can get in and out of easily - for early stages, a plastic wading pool works great! You may provide a heating pad on low setting, underneath the blanket, to help keep the pups warm for times when mom needs space. Mom will need free access to dry food and water at all times and should have wet food supplemented to make sure that she produces enough milk and has enough calories to keep caring for the babies.

The first few days you have mom home, if she has not given birth yet, make sure her room/area is set up for the puppies arrival. It's important that she knows this is her space and she is safe and comfortable. You may still take her out for walks and some play time, but once babies arrive, this will be somewhat limited.

The first few days after she gives birth, try to disturb mom and puppies as little as possible. Come in a couple times a day to weigh each puppy, give them a quick look over, replenish mom's needs, take her out for a short walk, look her over as well and then return her back to her babies.

The length of pregnancy in dogs is roughly 60 days

Birthing Emergency Checklist

- Clean bedding (keep lots of towels nearby)
- A pair of clean scissors or blade
- Rubbing alcohol for disinfecting
- Unflavored dental floss or sturdy thread
- Lubricant like petroleum jelly
- Baby's syringe bulb

The string and blade are to tie off and cut the placenta if mom does not do so after 5-10 minutes (you will cut about 1/4 to 1/2 in away from puppy's body). This does not need to be urgently done right away. Also use the blade to *carefully* cut the baby out of the sac if mom has not after 1-2 minutes. These items are just for **IN CASE** you should need them, dogs have been doing this for millions of years without our intervention - always give mom the opportunity to do it first. Her maternal instincts should kick in and you should try your best to not intervene.

Be Patient and Cautious With Mom

Just like we can be with our offspring, some moms can become protective over their new babies. Let mom come to you when you enter the room and make sure that she can see the pups when you have to handle them. **DO NOT** introduce house hold animals to a new mom in her 'sacred' space. This can create stress in mom, which can bring many complications, as well as potentially caused aggression. You are also putting those newborns at risk - they have **NO** immune system. Keep them separate.

Things To Look Out For

While mom should typically take care of all the pups needs, there are some things you need to keep an eye out for. Check that mom is not smothering any of the babies and that they are getting enough to eat. Remember, weighing them twice a day is still mandatory while mom is caring for them. Is mom ignoring a runt that seems weak or sickly? Is mom acting aggressively towards any of them? Is she doing anything that concerns you? Let the foster team know immediately so that they can arrange a medical exam or potentially place them with a foster that can bottle feed them if you cannot.

WE'RE HAVING A BABY! MAKING IT THROUGH LABOR

BEFORE

- Signs of labor in moms include panting, restlessness, nesting, loss of appetite and a drastically decreased body temperature - below 99 degrees.

DURING

- If your pregnant foster goes into active labor and hasn't had a baby after 1-2 hours, let your foster team know immediately via group text.

Alysia Martinez 850-270-3136 & Melissa Garrett 850-206-9175

- As the babies are delivered, mom will start cleaning them up. She will remove the fetal membranes and secretions from their noses and mouths, this will allow the pup to breathe freely.
- There should be a placenta for each pup born - if not, let your foster team know. **DO NOT PULL ON THE CORD WHEN PLACENTA IS STILL INSIDE MOM.** This can cause massive tearing and bleeding.
- **DO NOT HOVER.** Remember that mom's natural instincts will guide her. It is best to NOT intervene. Check on mom every hour or so just to be sure that things are moving along and going smoothly.
- Most moms will not need your help and may deliver in the middle of the night when it's quiet and she knows she will have time to herself to focus on her babies.
- If a baby is stuck in the birthing canal, call your foster team right away.
 - There can be a 20 minute to 2 hour pause in between babies being born - this is normal. If mom is pushing and starts to seem frantic or distressed, this is not normal and you should refer to the emergency protocol. Stay calm and we will walk you through whatever steps should be taken next and where to go if necessary.

AFTER

- Do NOT bathe the litter or mom for about week after birth. Mom will keep them clean and she should not be bathed in soap, only wiped down with a wet rag of any blood/after birth if needed.
- Keep mom and her whelping box in a secluded area - this should be a room with a door that closes to keep her from roaming the house and to keep other animals away from her and the puppies.
- Mom may try to move her babies to a closet or smaller, darer, or more secluded space if given the opportunity, as long as it's a safe space, this if fine.
- Some vomiting or diarrhea is normal after giving birth. Limit moms food and water intake for the first 24 hours to help with this, after 24 hours resume free access to food and water. Avoid treats and high value food during this time as well.

CONGRATULATIONS!

KEEP YOUR FOSTER TEAM POSTED ALONG THE WAY AND BE SURE TO LET THEM KNOW WHEN MOM IS DONE GIVING BIRTH. THEY WILL DIRECT YOU ON WHAT IS NEXT!

MARKETING AND ADOPTION: PUPPIES

Foster-to-Adopt Puppy Program

To be eligible for this program, puppies need to be at least six weeks old, weigh at least 1.5 pounds, have been vaccinated twice, have a microchip, are not being treated for any illness and are generally healthy. If they have a surgery date coming up soon, we will not place them in the program, and just adopt out as normal after they are altered.

Once a pup is eligible for this program they can be advertised via the Pensacola Humane Society website and other marketing avenues by yourself. It is your responsibility to help market your fosters through the Pensacola humane Society. The foster team will provide you with a foster-to-adopt packet for each of your foster puppies- this will include a foster guide that goes home with the adopter and a contract that the adopter signs and you keep and return to the foster team.

Submit weekly photo's of your fosters via email, foster@pensacolahumane.org, or via our private facebook page Pensacola Humane Society Foster Heroes. You should include a face shot, full body picture, and a picture that displays the pup's personality. With the pictures include a 2-3 sentence 'bio' or adopt me blurb about your pup's personality. Having this information drastically helps with finding homes!

When someone applies to adopt your foster, we will send the adopters information to you. It is your job to arrange a meeting between your fosters and the adopter in an timely manner. If they decide to adopter the pup(s) you will have them read through and sign the foster contract and give them their copy of the foster-to-adopt guide. The foster contract needs to be delivered, emailed or scanned to foster team within 24 hours. Taking clear pictures of each page and sending those to the foster team is also acceptable until you can get the physical copy to the shelter. The foster-to-adopt guide will have the kittens neuter date on the front and everything else the adopter needs to know for this period.



Surgery

If your pup is not adopted during the foster-to-adopt period, they will have their spay or neuter surgery at roughly 10 weeks and when they weigh at least 2.5 pounds. Your foster team will make this appointment and notify you when your kitten needs to come in.

Puppies will either stay at the shelter or go back into foster with you after their surgery and will be available for immediate adoption the following day. While continuing to foster this litter is no problem, it does mean that you will be unavailable to foster anything else, until the first pups are all adopted out.

If the puppies stay in your care after surgery we will continue to send you adoption applications and you are still required to set up and meet and greets per our normal adoption procedure until they are adopted. You will receive an adoption procedure sheet as well thoroughly describing what is to be expected of you as well as the applicants.

MARKETING AND ADOPTION: MOM

Prepping Mom for Adoption

Mom will stay with you until she is spayed. The sooner her babies are no longer nursing, the sooner she can be spayed; she must not be allowed to nurse the pups for 2 weeks before surgery. Her milk must dry up a bit before her spay. There are a couple of options for dealing with this:

1. You can separate mama from her babies when you see that they are eating enough gruel/kibble to maintain (and gain!) their weights (generally around 6 weeks). Mom can still have contact with babies, but it's important to now allow them to nurse. We can find other foster to step in and help with mom or puppies at this time.
2. Let puppies nurse from mom until they're adopted or mama kicks them off.. a lot of fosters find it very difficult/heartbreaking to separate mama from her babies. If you're one of these fosters, do not despair! Allowing mom to nurse her pups well after they require it is not going to cause any harm. Just keep in mind that the longer you allow mama to nurse, the longer you'll have to wait until she's able to be spayed. If you're in no rush to get everyone out, this is a fine option.

Remember that you, as her foster, are required to prepare mama for adoption just as much as her pups. We will need a bio for mama, and at least one of each: face picture, full body picture, and personality picture. These should be submitted weekly and can be sent via email, foster@pensacolahumane.org, or via our private facebook page Pensacola Humane Society Foster Heroes. The more videos, photos and personality information we get, the better her chances of finding the perfect home!



Face Pic



Full Body Pic



Personality Pic

Surgery

All foster surgeries are scheduled through Wiregrass Veterinary Clinic in AL. All animals on the surgery list are brought to the shelter the day before surgery and spend the night at the shelter. They are then transported to AL on the day of surgery. It is important that you tell the foster team as soon as mom has stopped nursing the pups so we can get her on the surgery list. By default, we will schedule for mom to go back into foster with you to heal up and look for her forever home while with you. If your foster journey with mom will end at her being spayed, you will let the foster team know before her spay is complete.

FEEDING TRACKER

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FEEDING TRACKER

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