

Puppy Development Time-line

Week 1: (1-7 Days Old)

Sleep almost all the time and nurse

Susceptible to heat/cold. Need to maintain a temperature comfortable for the environment they are being kept in.

As long as the puppies stay close to their mother, the room temperature is not too critical.

However, if the mother leaves her puppies alone, they need to be provided with a source of warmth.

During the first four days of life, the environmental temperature where the puppies are kept should be maintained at 85 -90°F (29.5-32°C).

The temperature may then be gradually decreased to approximately 80°F (26.7°C) by the seventh to tenth day and to about 72°F (22.2°C) by the end of the fourth week.

Heat lamps are OK, but have a thermometer by whelping box to monitor temperature.

Pups will need constant care from the Mom

Pups should double their weight by the end of the first week

Examine pups daily for weight gain and/or dehydration

Week 2: (8-14 Days Old)

Eyes should open around 10-14 days

Ears open around 13-17 days

Continue to examine pups daily for weight gain and/or dehydration

Continue to maintain a temperature comfortable for environment

At 14 days 1st worming is due

Week 3: (15-21 Days Old)

Teeth begin to show

Pups should stand up and start walking

Beginning to lap liquids

Potty without stimulation

Start playing with litter mates

Start developing a sense of smell

Start adding toys at this stage

Give pup milk re-placer to lap for one meal a day. After 2 to 3 days add some mushy soft food

Continue hold in different postions and add stress (pinch an ear or toe gently)

Start brushing, trimming nails, and looking at teeth

Week 4: (22-28 Days)

Pups begin to eat food, bark, wag tails, bite, bare teeth, growl and chase

Will start using legs well and tire easily

Depth perception starts

Continue to keep Mom with them a lot

Offer food with the consistency of oatmeal

Start limiting time Mom has access to pups before offering them food

At 4 weeks should be placed in a spot that pups can see and/or take part in the activity of the household

At 4 wks 2nd worming is due

Week 5: (29-35 Days)

Group activities and play will begin

Dominance order will start

Pups will have rapid growth and development

Start reducing fluids in food

Begin to have others handle pups

Begin weaning pups from Mom

Week 6: (26-42 Days)

Growth and development of pups will continue

Offer soft and damp foods

Put a bowl of dry food in with pups at start learning to pick at it

Continue individual attention. Give each pup time away from the litter with you

Pups can start puppy petting at Saturday Rescue events

At 6 wks 3rd Worming is due

Week 7: (43-49 Days)

Pups will have total hearing and visual capacity

Pups should be weaned and on regular dry puppy food

New potential owners can submit reservations at Adoption Events

Week 8: (50-56 Days)

Pups start first fear period Be extremely careful not to allow pups to be startled or scared by anything new during this time period. Introduce new sounds, situations, etc carefully.

Start learning their names

Start learning proper behavior (sitting, coming, waiting, no jumping, polite sit for attention, etc)

Motor skills improve

Continue lots of individual attention

Pups can go to their new homes

8 wk worming is due

After Week 8

Puppies will be altered at 9 weeks and go to their new homes at 10 weeks. (Effective 1/1/2016)

Additional Information:

<http://www.vcahospitals.com/main/pet-health-information/article/animal-health/breeding-for-dog-owners-caring-for-newborn-puppies/488>

For question or help please contact:

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