



Pregnant Dog Protocol

Thank you for fostering a pregnant dog for Charming Pet Rescue! Below are some guidelines, but if you ever have any questions or concerns, please text Hilary (210) 843-8326. If it's an emergency, call her.

Before birth:

Your pregnant mama dog is going to be extra hungry and thirsty, so provide her with as much as she wants of both food and water. She should be eating puppy kibble from pregnancy through the puppies being weaned as she needs the extra protein and calories. She also needs calcium supplements during pregnancy and while nursing.

Dog pregnancy is from 58-68 days.

Is she in labor?

Please read this helpful article: www.hepper.com/how-to-tell-if-dog-is-going-into-labor

Lots of mamas have given birth at the rescue, and only 3 have had to go to the vet for an emergency c-section due to a puppy being stuck.

After the first puppy is born, it's okay for it to take about 2 hours for the next puppy comes, but text Hilary if there's no puppy after that 2 hour mark.

Each puppy comes out in its own sack. Unlike humans, puppies are born with the placenta around them. The mama dog will rip the sack away, cut the umbilical cord with her teeth and then eat it all up! It has lots of nutrients in it, so it's very healthy for her. She then will aggressively lick her puppies--the puppy is just at the mercy of those megasaurus super licks, but she has to get the puppy awake and stimulated and eating quickly. IF you are watching and notice she hasn't cleared off the puppies face yet, gently remove the sack from the face so the puppy can start breathing, and she'll finish up the rest. Only once have I had to cut a puppy's umbilical cord, and that was with a very feral dog. 99.9% of the time all you need to do is enjoy the show! Puppies will nurse instinctively as soon as they're born, just put them by mama's belly.

Sometimes you'll think she's done because after puppy 5 or 6 or 7 she's dragging a little. You might leave the room and come back to one more pup! If you think she's getting really tired and the baby is halfway out and mama is just laying there, you can gently pull the baby out and put her by mama's face.

After birth:

After everyone is born and healthy, what now? Mama is in SUPER mama protector mode, and will not like any other animals anywhere near her babies, so please keep them separated. Mama and her pups need space and will attack other animals if given a chance.

The first week, provide pee pads for mom, it's too stressful to be taking them in and outside. They may do better with going outside in your home, it's different case by case. She may not even eat or drink the first couple of days, but don't worry because she got a ton of nutrition from all those placentas!

It's very common for the first poops after delivery to be diarrhea, so don't worry. But we do want to be diligent to prevent worms because those will be passed through her milk to her puppies. So she needs dewormer every week for 3-4 weeks. Charming will provide this to you.

Most importantly, let her have as much food and puppy kibble as she wants.

Bedding:

Big soft comforters are dangerous for newborn puppies because they can get lost in the folds and accidentally crushed or be away from the warmth and food from mama. The same is true for big dog beds-- puppies roll off and can't get back up. Just provide some sheets or blankets flat on the ground. Puppies can't maintain their own body heat for 3-4 weeks, so you may need to tuck them back close to mom if they get too far.

Puppy potty time:

Mama will lick up all of their poop and pee for at least 3 weeks. Once they stop, it's going to get messy. Put down newspapers all around them. When someone poops, just put another piece of newspaper on top so no one plays in it. Then twice a day just roll the whole thing up, toss it, and start over.

Weaning:

Puppies will naturally wean on their own around 4-5 weeks old. Once you see puppies trying to dive into mama's kibble, you know it's time to start transitioning. Mash up a can of puppy food with a fork and add water so it has the consistency of oatmeal. They have to learn to chew and swallow, so they can't handle big chunks. Put the food in a low dish or palate plate. You can put their paws in it, and they'll lick them off to get started! Same with water, they have to learn to drink it, so put it in a low bowl and teach them to put their little noses in it and they'll get the hang of it. Mama is going to eat their food, and that's okay.

Pre-adoption:

At about 5 weeks old, get some good, well-lit individual pictures of each puppy. We can start pre-adopting them around that time. At 6 weeks they can either go into adoptive homes or other fosters.

Kristin posts our dogs on the website, so send her pictures of each pup along with a brief bio of what you've observed about their personality. It's okay if you just send bullet points, she can put it all together! Give as much info as you can: super chill, boss of the pack, runt, submissive, etc. Text her at: 563-639-9693 if you'd prefer to email, please text her to let you know you sent an email so it doesn't get lost. Email: ksmithwrites@gmail.com

If you know someone who is interested in a puppy, please have them fill out an application on our website: www.charmingpetrescue.org

ALL potential adopters must fill out an application. You are not authorized to give any puppies away. Puppies need to be fully vetted through Charming Pet Rescue, and all require an approved application and adoption fee.

Vaccines:

At 6 weeks old, puppies get their first shots! Text Lisa (210) 775-8106 to arrange a Saturday for your pups and mama to get their shots. Puppies need 3 vaccines total, 2-3 weeks apart. We normally do their last shot when they're getting fixed, but it's okay if that time frame doesn't work out.

Supplies:

As far as all of the food and pee pads and bedding, etc, Charming Pet Rescue will pay for it all. We don't normally have enough of everything when you need it so text me first, tell me what you need and if I have it, come get it and if I don't, you purchase it, send me the receipt and I'll reimburse you!

THANK YOU for your selflessness and helping this mama and her puppies out. It's a lot of work but it's rewarding and really good karma too! Reach out anytime!

Hilary (210) 843-8326 (all questions, concerns, supplies)

Kristin (563) 639-9693 (send pics and bio for website and social media)

Lisa (210) 775-8106 (vaccines - shot appointments on Saturdays)