

How to prepare for the birth of puppies?

Whelping 101

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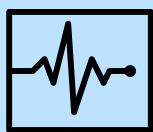


Prepare a whelping box:

Prepare a large box either out of cardboard or wood panels. Line it with news paper and blankets.

Place this box in a quiet, warm spot indoors where the mom can have her puppies.

Make sure to introduce the the spot to the mom a few days before she has her puppies so she can get used to it.



What are some signs your dog may be going into labor?

Restlessness, pacing, digging, shivering, reduced appetite, vomiting, and straining.

If you have access to a thermometer, you can measure the mom's temperature*. It will drop around 24h before she has her puppies.



How long should it take for the puppies to arrive?

Puppies should start being delivered within 30 min once the mom starts straining.

There might be small breaks between each puppy's arrival.

What is after birth?

The afterbirth is the membrane that surrounds the puppy when it is in its mother and provides nutrients and blood supply. There will be one afterbirth per puppy born. It is often delivered after each puppy. It is normal for the mama dog to eat the after birth.

*Normal dog body temperature is 37.5-39.5C. You can measure temperature rectally or in the armpit. Temperatures taken in the armpit will be around one degree cooler than the actual body temperature. Make sure to keep the thermometer in place until it beeps 4 times to get an accurate reading.

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What to do once the puppies are born?

The mom should lick and clean the puppies off. If she is still in active labor she might be too busy to do so. In that case make sure all the puppies are breathing.

If they are not gently rub them with a towel to help stimulate them.



When should you seek veterinary assistance?

- If the mama dog is actively straining for more than an hour without any signs of a puppy coming
- If the mama dog is in severe pain
- If one of the puppies is stuck and can't come out
- If you have any concerns at all

If you have any additional questions you can visit veterinary partner at
<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com>

