



Mom and Puppies Care Guide

Simple life-saving basics

KEY ACTIONS

- Keep puppies warm, clean, fed, and with mom.
- Do not rehome before 8 weeks.
- Act fast for emergency signs.

WEEKS 0 TO 3

- Keep warm.
- Ensure feeding.
- Keep clean.
- Do not separate puppies from mom.

WEEKS 4 TO 5

- Start puppy mush.
- Feed 3 to 4 times daily.
- Do not stop mom from feeding yet.

WEEKS 6 TO 8

- Vaccinate at 6 weeks.
- Plan homes, but do not rehome before 8 weeks.
- No public exposure.
- No meet and greets outside the home.
- Use hand sanitizer and do not introduce puppies to other dogs yet.
- Vaccines can start at 6 weeks and should continue on schedule. Parvo spreads easily and can be fatal.

EMERGENCY SIGNS

Constant crying.

Cold body temperature.

Not eating.

Diarrhea.

Weakness or not moving.

Act fast. Keep them warm, clean, and with mom. Seek veterinary assistance immediately for illness, distress, or injury.

SHE IS NOT BEING MEAN

At around 5 to 6 weeks, many people think the mother dog is being aggressive or rejecting her puppies. In reality, she is doing exactly what she should be doing.

Weaning: puppies have teeth and nursing becomes uncomfortable. The mother may move away, growl, or refuse to lie down. This teaches puppies to start eating solid food.

Bite inhibition: puppies begin biting and playing roughly. The mother may correct them with growls or controlled snaps. This teaches them not to bite too hard.

Independence: the mother spends less time with the puppies and allows them to explore. This prepares them for life without her.

WHEN TO BE CONCERNED

Intervene only if the mother is injuring the puppies, showing constant uncontrolled aggression, or refusing contact very early, during weeks 1 to 2.

Growling, snapping, and walking away can look like aggression or rejection, but these controlled natural behaviors are essential for development.

This guide is for general education only and does not replace veterinary care. Always consult a licensed veterinarian for medical advice.

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