

# OTAT PDX PREGNANT MAMA AND PUPPIES HANDBOOK

## *What to Expect When Your Foster Dog is Expecting*

The purpose of this document is to equip fosters of pregnant dogs (or fosters interested in potentially welcoming a pregnant dog) with additional information that is specifically relevant to mama's pregnancy as well as the delivery and care of newborn puppies with mom present.

This document is intended to supplement OTAT PDX's [foster handbook](#) which details the policies of our program that are applicable to all foster dogs, including pregnant mamas and newborn pups.

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# WHY GIVE BIRTH IN FOSTER?

Pregnant dogs turn up in shelters every day - both knowingly (from guardians who surrender the dog rather than navigate their pregnancy) as well as unknowingly (from strays or community dogs who may be pregnant upon their intake). While overcrowded, stressful shelter environments are hard on any dog, the close proximity shared by hundreds of other dogs is especially dangerous for newborn puppies who do not have a strong enough immune system to protect them from the host of potential illnesses present.

By welcoming a pregnant mama dog you are not only allowing her to give birth in an immeasurably more comfortable environment, you are also giving her babies a chance at a healthy, happy life that they may not experience otherwise.

## WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER BIRTH

### Before Birth:

Pregnant mama dogs can be treated like any other foster dog however they should be given ample opportunity to eat and to sleep because they need lots of both! You may notice some clear/cloudy discharge after/while mama potties - this is normal and may be a sign that she's getting closer to giving birth. On average, dogs' gestation period is 9 weeks (63 days) but we rarely know with certainty when a dog conceived.

### Whelping Space

We recommend preparing a whelping space for the birth ahead of time so that you have it ready when the time comes. This area should ideally have walls short enough that mama can easily enter and exit it but tall enough that the newborn pups cannot - many folks use plastic "kiddie-sized" swimming pools for this but for particularly small dogs they might not work as well. It helps to pad the bottom of the pool/box/area with blankets for comfort - you'll also want to be sure you have plenty of extra, clean towels/sheets/blankets/pee pads available. Let us know what supplies OTAT can provide that would be helpful when assembling the whelping space!

This whelping box should be located in a low-traffic, quiet part of your home - a spare bedroom, bathroom, or large enough closet is ideal if available. The box should not be located anywhere that is not climate controlled and the ambient temperature of the room should be at least 72° with no drafts or fans aimed at the whelping area. If you do not have a private room to dedicate to this purpose, we recommend using an ex-pen with covers clipped to it around the whelping box to create a private space for mama and pups. When inside the box there should be enough

room for mama to have access to food and water. If you have resident animals, keep them away from this whelping area - it's important that it feels private, safe, and secure to mama.

### Supplies to Have On Hand:

- Large bottle of hand sanitizer
- Lots of clean sheets/towels/blankets/pee pads
- Scale to weigh puppies (food scales typically suffice)
- Baby/Dog wipes
- Plastic bin/tote
- Heating pad/heated blanket with no auto shut-off (for use when puppies are separated from mama. These devices should always be set to low and placed underneath a cloth layer - never place a pup directly on one)
- Bulb syringe (for use in emergencies only)
- Clean scissors/blade (for use in emergencies only)
- Unflavored dental floss or sturdy thread (for use in emergencies only)

### Labor:

While every dog is unique there are some typical behaviors that frequently indicate that mama is going into labor: she will typically lose her appetite, her temperature will drop below 99°, her rate of breathing will increase, she will begin to pant, she may appear restless, and she will begin to seek out a place to give birth ("nesting"). She may pace, shiver, or even vomit - this is all normal and nothing to be concerned about.

If she seeks out the whelping area you've already prepared that is perfect but, if not, gently lead her to it. Most mamas will gladly accept that space but particularly independent dogs may insist on seeking for their own - if you find that your foster is one of those you may benefit from taking her outside for potty on leash because, if left to her own devices, she may seek refuge somewhere hidden in your yard!

This labor period may last for hours as uterine contractions begin and grow towards full dilation of the cervix. As labor progresses there will be some vaginal discharge - colorless at first but later tinged with blood.

If you notice a foul smell to this discharge or profuse, bright red blood streaming from her vulva contact OTAT immediately using the [emergency protocol](#).

If you notice that mama is so exhausted she doesn't seem to be able to lift her head, check her gums. They should be bubblegum pink - if they are white or gray contact OTAT immediately using the [emergency protocol](#).

It's important to keep in mind that most mama dogs do not want or need anyone's help giving birth. It's not uncommon for mama to deliver when she's alone - in the middle of the night or when you leave.

## Delivery:

The first amniotic sac will be visible, indicating the beginning of the birth. Typically the first puppy will emerge within 30 minutes of the amniotic sac's appearance. Typically mama's licking will rupture the amniotic sac and you should not interfere. Once the first puppy is expelled you can expect successive pups every 30 to 45 minutes (but can be longer) with 10 to 30 minutes of hard straining per pup. It is not unusual for puppies to be born tail first, it is also not unusual for mama to take a break partway through and appear to no longer be straining only to resume again later.

If mom is straining for longer than one hour with no pup delivered, if mom is straining while seeming frantic or distressed, or if mom takes a break for longer than four hours with no straining or pups delivered contact OTAT immediately using the [emergency protocol](#).

A typical puppy birth involves the mother first breaking the amniotic sac by licking it, then she will lick the newborn puppy's face, clearing away secretions which enables them to take their first breaths. Mama will then bite through the umbilical cord, separating the puppy from the placenta. Mama will ingest the cord up to about one inch from the puppies' belly - you do not need to do anything, the remaining cord will eventually dry up and fall off in about five days. Mama may at this point try to eat the placenta - she can although it is often vomited up later. Lastly, mom will typically lick the newborn all over to clean them and keep them warm until the next pup arrives and the process restarts. Each pup may or may not be followed by an afterbirth - in some cases mama will pass two pups and then two placentas.

In most births, mom knows what to do! They've been doing this for thousands of years in all manner of conditions. There is typically very little for you to do during delivery. Your biggest job is ensuring that things are moving along, that mom isn't appearing to have difficulty and that the puppies are "wiggly" after delivery. It might appear that mama is being rough with the puppies while breaking the sac or chewing off the umbilical cord but it's totally normal - there's no reason to intervene unless she is in distress herself neglecting to do something necessary for the pups. These situations are rare but described below for your reference.

## Unusual situations and what to do:

**If mom doesn't promptly remove the amniotic sac or cut the cord you should be prepared to intervene.** In some cases, a mother dog might not know she needs to and in other cases she might be too busy attending to the next pup. Give her about one minute after the passing of a pup to clear the sac herself by licking/biting it and, if she's not and the pup still has the sac over

their face, gently remove the membrane around the newborn yourself. Cut the cord about one inch from the newborn's belly using scissors or a blade and then use string or dental floss to tie it off. **Take care not to pull on the cord while the placenta is still inside mom** - this can cause tearing and bleeding. You should use a warm, damp cloth (no soap, just water) to clean the pup and the bulb syringe to blow into their mouths and stimulate breathing. Once they start wiggling, put them near mom's teat to nurse. At this point mom and baby's instincts will likely take over.

From Austin Pets Alive!: *"Although [intervening during birth] sounds very scary, remember that in nature, or if momma was alone, the puppies would likely not survive in this situation. So anything you do is likely to help save their lives. At the same time also remember that it is not uncommon for some puppies to not survive. Some may be stillborn or die shortly after birth. Just providing a warm, safe place for momma to deliver has already increased their chances of survival!"*

## Afterwards

Once you are sure delivery is over, the first thing to do is clean out the soiled bedding inside the whelping area and replace it with clean blankets/sheets/towels. You should first set up the heating pad inside your plastic bin/tote as a temporary warm spot for the pups while you clean out the whelping area - it's very important that they stay warm. You can use this warmed bin as a temporary space for the pups whenever mom isn't present as well as put the warming pad under their blankets inside the whelping area once it's cleaned. Leave a portion of their bedding inside the whelping area un-warmed so that mom and the pups can adjust as needed inside their space.

Do not bathe mom or the pups. You can wipe them down with a wet rag or baby wipe but you should not use soap. It's likely that mama will clean the pups herself.

If you're present and able, make note of the time(s) that the pups are born. Shortly after birth you should weigh each pup and make note of their birth weight, birth time, and any colorings/markings we can use to identify them. Wait at least two hours after mama is done laboring before taking a pup to be weighed. You can use [this example Birth Record spreadsheet](#) or make your own but please submit it to OTAT by emailing [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org). Including pictures of each pup is also helpful.

**It's important to note that mama may be protective of her pups!** You should not allow resident animals to come near the whelping area and you should minimize your own interference in that space - if you encounter any behavioral concerns from mom after delivery let OTAT know by emailing [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [training@otatpdx.org](mailto:training@otatpdx.org) CC'd. If you need to leash mama before taking her outside it may be helpful to leave a lightweight leash on her at all times so that you do not need to grab her collar for trips outside. It may be best to separate resident animals from mom entirely while she's outside the whelping area as well. If you believe mom is being too rough with her pups let OTAT know as well.

# SETTING THE PUPPIES UP FOR SUCCESS

## Feeding

### Feeding Mama

Mom's appetite will be much greater than typical while nursing and you should provide as much food and water as she will take. You can mix wet food into the dry food for her to further incentivize/load up her meals. If there's sufficient room inside her whelping area you can leave a bowl of dry food out for her to free feed as-needed. Clean water should always be available for mom. Some vomiting and diarrhea from mom is normal after giving birth and especially if she ate the placentas.

### Feeding Pups (Weeks 0-4)

For the first two weeks of their lives, the pups should nurse vigorously from mom - her first milk, colostrum, is very important nutritionally for them. Puppies can nurse for up to about 45 minutes at a time, depending what mama will tolerate. Even though puppies' eyes won't open for 2-3 weeks after birth their noses have heat sensing attributes that will naturally guide them to mom's teats. They will compete for the most productive nipples, this is totally natural. While some pushing of each other is normal if one puppy is pushed too far from mom they might get too cold - If this occurs warm them and return them to mom's teats. If you observe one puppy repeatedly being crowded out by their siblings and unable to nurse they may need additional supplemental nutrition. Contact OTAT by emailing [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) if you believe this is occurring.

**It's important to regularly weigh each pup daily, record their weight, and submit it to OTAT.** You can use [this template](#) to keep tabs on their growth or use your own but it's important that you regularly submit their weights to OTAT each Wednesday. You can use a bowl to hold the pup while weighing but be sure to zero out the bowl's weight from the scale to ensure it's not included. They should consistently be gaining weight - if you notice weight stagnation or weight loss notify OTAT immediately by emailing [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [medical@otatpdx.org](mailto:medical@otatpdx.org) CC'd, do not wait until the next Wednesday to do so.

### Feeding Pups (Weaning, Weeks 4-8+)

The pups will consume mom's milk for the first four weeks of their lives before you'll need to begin weaning them off of Mom by using gruel. To make gruel, you'll take pate style, non-chunky canned puppy food, blend it, dilute it down into a thin paste, and then warm it up. Puppy milk replacer is the ideal diluent but, in its absence, water can be used instead. Contact OTAT by emailing [supplies@otatpdx.org](mailto:supplies@otatpdx.org) if/when you need re-supplies of any of these products.

Weaning is a gradual process that will take several weeks - mama will typically initiate weaning by starting to discourage her pups from nursing but some moms (especially those with small litters) may tolerate it for longer. Separate the pups from her for a few hours at a time, during which you can feed them gruel from a shallow plate. If a pup isn't taking gruel from the plate you can try putting some on your fingers - if the pup is comfortable licking it there, lower your finger to the plate containing the gruel to encourage them to eat with their head facing down. It may take a few meals for them to figure this out! If they're not taking gruel from the plate or your finger, you can use a bulb syringe or syringe with no needle to shoot some into their mouth.

You can gradually increase their time away from mom to lessen their reliance on her. They may still attempt to nurse when in her presence - nursing can offer comforting benefits to pups beyond basic nutritional benefits. It's important to continue weighing them to ensure that they're still putting on weight!

By 5-6 weeks of age, you should be feeding gruel four times per day. You can start thickening the gruel by gradually decreasing the amount of diluent and then by gradually introducing dry puppy food into the mixture. You can offer the dry food to them on its own while continuing the gruel administration. Be sure to make water available to them too. They may continue to nurse from mom when given the opportunity (if allowed by mom).

By 6-7 weeks of age, they should be comfortable eating dry food. Offer them at least 3-4 meals per day - puppies at this age may not eat much in a single sitting and prefer to eat frequently as opposed to heartily. By 7-8 weeks, if mom is still nursing them at all they should be brief sessions. It is important to offer them dry food in multiple bowls, even if they are comfortable all eating out of one. This will help prevent resource guarding in the future - we want the pups to understand that food is plentiful and that they will always get enough so that if their littermates push them out of one bowl they should be able to easily find another bowl.

## Elimination

During their first two weeks of life, puppies must be manually stimulated to trigger elimination - they're unable to do it themselves. Most of the time, mom will instinctively do this by licking them after they nurse and then she will consume their pee and poop - this is normal. In the event that she doesn't, you may need to manually stimulate their elimination by rubbing a warm, damp baby wipe or cloth on their bottoms after they nurse. At 2-4 weeks old they should begin being able to urinate and defecate on their own but should remain indoors at all times because they're unvaccinated and at risk of communicable disease in the environment. OTAT can provide potty pads if desired/helpful.

## Socialization

Puppies begin their socialization phase around 2-4 weeks of age - initially their socialization will be chiefly led by mama but as they further develop you should increase the amount that you handle and interact with them to get them more and more accustomed to interacting with people. It's important from a behavioral standpoint not to subject them to any experiences that

could be frightening - it's typically best not to have children interact with them unless the child can be supervised and trusted to only handle them gently and with patience. From a medical standpoint it's important not to introduce them to anyone (human or animal) outside of their current home while they are unvaccinated and susceptible to communicable disease.

Conditioning them to be comfortable with human handling is important and will benefit them later in life - particularly at the vet and when they're to be groomed or have their nails trimmed. You want to regularly pick them up, touch their feet, ears, tail, brush their fur, etc. It's important to do this in such a way that isn't scary - if the pup appears reluctant try using food to teach them that handling can be a positive experience, you can feed kibble or treats to them or smear peanut butter on something they can lick while being handled.

## MILESTONES

The following are typical, usual timelines for important puppy developmental steps. Every dog is unique and every situation is different - don't be alarmed if you don't witness these things occurring precisely when listed below!

### Weeks 0-2

For the first couple weeks, the pups are basically always either nursing (about 10% of the time) or sleeping (about 90% of the time). Healthy puppies at this age rarely cry.

Any remaining umbilical cord will dry up and fall off on its own.

They need to be kept warm and should not be bathed - in fact, this early in their lives it's best to avoid handling them as much as possible.

If you pinch their skin it should immediately spring back. If it doesn't, this can be sign of dehydration - contact OTAT by emailing [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [medical@otatpdx.org](mailto:medical@otatpdx.org) CC'd.

Their ear canals will likely open between 5 and 8 days after being born. Their eyes typically open 8-14 days after being born and open gradually - usually starting from the nose and moving outward. All puppies are born with blue eyes!

### Weeks 3-4

Around 3 weeks they will likely start cleaning themselves but they don't do a very good job yet and mom will still do most of the cleaning. They still should not be bathed and should be kept indoors exclusively - if you have specific concerns about their skin (ex: urine scalding) contact OTAT by emailing [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [medical@otatpdx.org](mailto:medical@otatpdx.org) CC'd.



Their eyes will start to change color around this time but may not reach their final adult colors for another 6-9 weeks. Their pupils will be more distinguished from their irises and they begin to actually see better and better.

They'll start moving around more: around 3 weeks they'll start crawling and between 3 and 4 weeks most of them should be beginning to stand on their four legs.

They're beginning their [socialization phase](#) now and while that is chiefly informed by mama this early, they will also start playing with each other and biting one another, even before their teeth come in.

At Week 4 you can begin housebreaking them by using a pile of puppy pads which OTAT can provide. After each feeding place the puppy on the pile and wait for them to go - you may have to be patient! Be sure to praise them heavily when they go on the pads, while they might forget to go back to them some of the time they will gradually learn where to go. The pads should be inside their enclosure and while it's helpful to keep them nearby (so that they more easily remember where to go) you want to be sure they're far enough away from their food & water to avoid cross-contamination. Take them to their pad pile after meals and, as they get older, after naps and during play sessions until they learn to go to the pads on their own. Once the puppy is vaccinated and old enough to go outside you can utilize [OTAT's standard potty training guide](#).

## Weeks 5-6

Around Week 5 they can be allowed to begin exploring around the room they're in but only while under supervision (and still only indoors). The biggest/strongest of the litter will likely be the first to want to (or figure out how to) leave the nest but the others will soon follow.

At Week 6 they can be safely bathed, if necessary, but should be blow dried and fed immediately afterwards.

## Weeks 7+

At this point they're pretty much behaving like little dogs! They should be able to clean themselves and will likely play with each other, with toys, and with you. They may come when called, they may seek attention and affection. If you notice any of the pups exhibiting food or toy guarding behaviors from their littermates contact [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [training@otatpdx.org](mailto:training@otatpdx.org) CC'd.

# EMERGENCY CRITERIA AND PROTOCOL

The following describe emergency criteria considerations for newborn puppies who, due to their fragility, have some unique considerations. For Mama, refer to OTAT's Foster Handbook's [emergency criteria](#) which applies to all OTAT foster dogs.

## Emergency Criteria (for the puppies)

### Emergency Criteria during Weeks 0-4:

The following symptoms should be considered red flags (email OTAT at [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [medical@otatpdx.org](mailto:medical@otatpdx.org) CC'd)

- Very watery or explosive diarrhea
- Bloody diarrhea
- Not eating, even missing one meal
- Vomiting
- A puppy losing weight or stagnating in weight between weigh-ins

The following symptoms should be considered emergencies (utilize [Emergency Protocol](#) immediately)

- Seizures
- Excessive vomiting
- At 2-4 weeks old: White or grey gums (please take photo as well)
- Lethargy or listlessness

The following symptoms should activate the [Fading Puppy Protocol](#) immediately:

- Extreme Lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet
- Gasping for breath
- Whining/Crying out
- Cold to the touch

### Emergency Criteria during Weeks 4+:

The "Meatball Test" - a typical, healthy puppy will almost always be excited to eat a little meatball of canned food. If you're ever suspecting that a pup may be sick, offer them a little meatball of canned food and if they refuse to eat it email [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [medical@otatpdx.org](mailto:medical@otatpdx.org) CC'd.

The following symptoms should be considered red flags (email OTAT at [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [medical@otatpdx.org](mailto:medical@otatpdx.org) CC'd)

- Decrease in appetite
- Diarrhea that is not improving in 72hrs
- Very watery or explosive diarrhea, even once
- Losing interest in playing with littermates

- Suddenly being “bullied” by littermates
- Losing 0.5lb in a 24hr period.
- Bloody diarrhea
- Vomiting

The following symptoms should be considered emergencies (utilize [Emergency Protocol](#) immediately)

- Seizures
- White or grey gums (please take photo as well)
- Lethargic or unresponsive
- Temperature above 102 degrees F (at rest)

The following symptoms should activate the [Fading Puppy Protocol](#) immediately:

- Extreme Lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet
- Gasping for breath
- Whining/Crying out
- Cold to the touch

## Emergency Protocol

In the event of an emergency, **first call OTAT's emergency line at 503-298-6938**. If someone does not answer immediately please leave a voicemail message. Someone will return your call as soon as they are able.

In the event that the emergency line is not operational, here are our staff's direct lines. We will post who is on-call for the weekend each Friday. If the emergency line has failed, please start with the on-call person before reaching out to anyone else.

- Executive Director, Juli Zagrans: juli@otatpdx.org, 847.363.3133
- Director of Operations, Sadie Hoxmeier: sadie@otatpdx.org, 541.292.0388
- Community Operations Director, April Saban: april.saban@otatpdx.org 503.473.4615
- Events & Communications Manager, Clara Ridabock: clara@otatpdx.org 503.459.6324
- Adoptions & Programs Coordinator, Emi Tice: emi@otatpdx.org 503.432.6875
- Foster, Volunteer, & Programs Coordinator, Jess Morgan: jess@otatpdx.org 260.415.7704

Mon-Fri, you can text/call any of us in the case of an emergency. On weekends, we operate on a rotating on-call schedule which is subject to change.

## Fading Puppy Protocol

Fading Puppy Syndrome is a life threatening condition in which a puppy “crashes” and then fades away - it can lead to death and, while rare, it is most likely to occur during the pup’s first six weeks of life. It is caused by either hypothermia (the pup being too cold) or hypoglycemia (the pup’s blood sugar being too low).

**If you observe the Fading Puppy Syndrome symptoms** (*Extreme Lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet, Gasping for breath, Whining/Crying out, Cold to the touch*) **it is crucial that you begin this protocol immediately!**

**Do steps 1 and 2 before contacting OTAT - there is nothing more that can be done and the timing of your intervention can be critical.**

### 1.) Get The Puppy Warm

- a.) Wrap them in a towel “burrito” leaving only their face exposed. Only their nose and mouth should be exposed, everything else should be wrapped and it is crucial that they stay wrapped - do not take them out to check on them.
- b.) The towel + your body heat will not be enough, you need to apply additional heat to the wrapped puppy.
  - i.) If you have a heating pad - turn it on low and wrap it around the towel. Do not touch it to the pup directly, but wrap it tightly around the towel which is itself around them. You can use tape to adhere the pad to the bundled pup.
  - ii.) If you do not have a heating pad but do have a dryer - fill the dryer with towels and keep it running. Wrap a hot new towel around the “burrito” towel and replace the hot towel every five minutes with another from the dryer. Do not press the hot towels against the pup directly but wrap them tightly around the original burrito towel which is itself around them.
  - iii.) If you do not have a heating pad or a dryer - fill two socks with rice, tie them off, and microwave them for three minutes. Put them on either side of the burrito wrapped puppy (not touching the pup directly but along the sides of the towel bundle containing the puppy). Every 30 minutes reheat one of the two socks for three minutes, leaving the other with the puppy bundle.

### 2.) Get The Puppy’s Blood Sugar Up (Only Do These Steps Once the Puppy is Warmed)

- a.) Mix up a few tablespoons of sugar in hot water in a bowl or tupperware. In the absence of sugar you can use undiluted Karo syrup or agave nectar. You want to be as sugary as possible while still runny - not as thick a solution as pancake syrup. Using either a syringe or your finger, give 3 drops of this solution every 3 minutes into the mouth. If the puppy isn’t swallowing, try not to get it down the throat but instead onto their tongue or gums.
- b.) You must continue doing this every three minutes - 3 drops, every 3 minutes. It is critical to maintain that frequency. Use a timer on your phone, microwave, or egg timer to stay on tempo.

3.) **Notify OTAT by following the [emergency protocol](#)** (Only Do This if You can Maintain Steps One and Two)

- a.) It's most important that you continue keeping them warm and administering the sugar solution every three minutes - that is more important than notifying OTAT because at this juncture there is nothing else we can do. With that said, it is still important for OTAT to be aware so please notify OTAT but only if you can do so without interrupting the warming/sugar process. If you are unable to do both, stay with the puppy and continue steps 1 and 2. Rushing a crashing puppy to an emergency vet will not help them - they have a better likelihood of survival with you, in your home, receiving warmth and constant sugar administration.

It can take hours for puppies to come out of these crashes - once they have shown marked improvement and are acting normally you can cease the sugar/warming steps. If at this point OTAT is still not aware please notify OTAT.

Tragically, even when everything is done correctly some puppies will not make it. Try not to beat yourself up - after all, without your intervention and opening up your home as a foster guardian it is likely that none of these pups would have had a chance at all.

## RESOURCES

### Sources and Additional Reading

Much of the information in this document is compiled from the following resources:

- [Raising Puppies With a Mom](#) - Austin Pets Alive!
- [What to Expect When Your Pregnant Foster Dog is Expecting](#) - Austin Pets Alive!
- [Puppy Basics](#) - Austin Pets Alive!
- [Fading Puppy Syndrome](#) - Austin Pets Alive!
- [Foster Care Manual](#) - Erie County SPCA
- [Puppies and Mom Foster Hero Guide](#) - Pensacola Humane Society

While this document was written with birth and early days in mind, OTAT's [Puppy Resource Guide](#) contains tons of additional resources and information relevant to socialization, training, and development as the puppies progress.

Other, non-OTAT resources we recommend:

Instinct Training's [Ultimate Puppy Parenting Guidebook](#) (8 Weeks+)

[Dog Training by Kikopup](#) on Youtube (Including their [Complete Guide to Puppy Training](#))

### Example Birth Record

[illegible]

Name:  
Primary/Secondary Coloring:  
Markings:

Markings:

[illegible]

If you notice weight stagnation or weight loss email [foster@otatpdx.org](mailto:foster@otatpdx.org) with [medical@otatpdx.org](mailto:medical@otatpdx.org) CC'd immediately - do not wait for the next Wednesday checkin.