

Feeding Guidelines (Mom and puppies to 5 wks old)

Thank you for fostering! The information provided below will get you and your puppy(s) off to a great start. Please let us know if you ever have any concerns or questions.

AID	Name	Starting Weight

Feeding Instructions:

Mom Dog

Dry: Free Feed **Wet:** Offer wet food 2-3 times a day.

Water should always be available and should be refreshed twice a day.

Mom dog with puppies 5+ weeks old

Once puppies are eating well on their own mom dog will not need as much food since she will not be nursing as much. Keep in mind mom will most likely eat whatever the puppies don't finish so balance this with how much she is being fed.

*If mom dog is underweight please continue to feed the amount noted above.

Heathy dog (recommended daily amount)

3 to 12 pounds: 1/3 – 1 cups	51 to 75 pounds: 2 2/3 - 3 1/3 cups
13 to 20 pounds: 1 – 1 1/3 cups	76 to 100 pounds: 3 1/3 - 4 1/4 cups
21 to 35 pounds: 1 1/3 - 2 cups	100+ pounds : 4 1/4 plus 1/4 cup for each 10lbs of body weight over 100lbs
36 to 50 pounds: 2 – 2 2/3 cups	

*Small amount of wet food can be added to dry food. Just remember to reduce the amount of dry food given.

Bottle puppies

Puppies will be getting everything they need from mom for the first 4-5 weeks of life. It's a good idea to make sure smaller puppies get one on one time with mom and are nursing well. If you see a puppy struggling to latch on or whining/crying contact the foster phone, 919-630-9680. Puppies under 4 weeks of age are very fragile and if they are not eating the recommended amount it can quickly become an emergency.

5 week old puppies

Dry: 1/8 cup of puppy kibble soaked for 15 minutes and then mixed. Feed 2x a day. Puppies this small will eat wet food better than dry. All uneaten food should be thrown out at your next feeding.

Wet: 1/4 - 1/2 can wet food gruel should be offered 3-4 times a day. You will need to reduce bottle feeding when transitioning to wet food. All uneaten food should be thrown out at your next feeding.

Weighing Instructions:

Puppies should be weighed at least once a week. If you do not have a scale and are able to purchase one please do so, this is an essential tool when fostering. If any of the puppies are not gaining weight or are losing weight please call the foster phone, 919-630-9680. Puppies under 5 weeks of age can become critical quickly.

Puppy weight

Puppy weight gain is a little more complicated since the breeds can vary so much in size. In general, puppies should be gaining approximately 10% of their current body weight per day. For example, a 3 pound puppy should gain 0.3lb that day. The next day, pup would weigh 3.3lb and should gain 0.33lb that day. Puppies should also double their weight from birth by 10 days old.

To calculate the appropriate daily weight gain:

Body weight in pounds x 0.1 = weight gain needed per day

Example: 4.5 pound puppy x 0.1 = 0.45lb weight gain needed

To calculate the appropriate total weight change for 24 hours:

Body weight in pounds x 1.1 = estimated appropriate total weight

Example: 2.6 pound pup x 1.1 = 2.86 pound is appropriate total weight

Let us know if you notice any of the following:

- Not eating
- Diarrhea
- Sneezing/coughing
- Discharge from eyes and nose
- Lethargy
- Limping
- Any other abnormal behavior
- Weight loss