

## Summary of Neonatal Care

### Keep Available for All Litter Under 2 Weeks of Age

Parameter	Risk	Intervention to Manage the Risk
1. <b>APGAR</b> Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity and Respiration	A Problem <b>APGAR</b> score of <7 is associated with a 22x risk of death in the 1 <sup>st</sup> 8 hours after birth. Pups with an APGAR of 4-7 can achieve a 90% survival rate with appropriate intervention.	Repeat or continue resuscitation efforts of suctioning, oxygen, epinephrine, caffeine, ventilation and veterinary care as indicated. Pups with an APGAR score of 0 – 3 need intensive resuscitation efforts.
2. Birth Weight	<b>Low birth weight</b> pups have an 81% chance of death in the 1 <sup>st</sup> 48 hours. Pups in the lightest 25% of its breed has an increased risk of mortality during the 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 days of life. Weight loss - >4% weight loss associated with 8x risk of death.	Scale – essential. Toy breeds – 100 – 200 gm Medium breeds 200-400 gm Large breeds 400 – 600 gm Giant breeds – 600 to 800 gm
3. Litter size	<b>Large litters</b> have a 4x increased risk of neonatal death associated with low birth weight/slow delivery.	Calcium or c-section. Nutritional support with bottle or tube feeding. Plasma if colostrum is limited or delayed.
4. 4 H syndrome	<b>Hypothermia</b> → ileus of gut. → dehydration → <b>hypoglycemia</b> . Room temperature = 75° F. Surface temperature = 90 to 95°F. Rectal temp 94 – 96°F 1 <sup>st</sup> 24 hours. Rectal temp 96-98° F 1 <sup>st</sup> week. Hypothermic pups → 4x increased risk of death. <b>Hypoxia</b> → put in oxygen chamber <b>Humidity</b> should be 55% +/- 10%. Monitor <b>hydration</b> with MM moisture and urine color.	Rectal thermometer and Weather station to monitor temperature and humidity. Pups cannot regulate their body temperature until they are 3 weeks old. Increase surface temperature. Avoid use of heat lamp due to risk of dehydration. Avoid feeding until pup has appropriate rectal temperature for 1 hour.
5. Hypoglycemia	Glucose of 90 mg/dl or higher at 24 to 48 hours of age– normal. <b>Glucose &lt; 90 gm/dl</b> = 4x increased risk of death.	Glucometer & foot pad stick. Tube or bottle feeding. Antibiotics for sepsis.

APGAR Parameter	0	1	2
A = Mucus membrane color			
P = Pulse, Heart rate			
G = Grimace, Irritability reflex			
A = Activity, Mobility			
R = Respirations			

  

APGAR Parameter	0	1	2
A = Mucus membrane color	Flaccid	Some tone in limbs	Active movements
P = Pulse, Heart rate	Absent to <110 BPM	110-220 BPM	>220 BPM
G = Grimace, Irritability reflex	Absent	Some movement	Crying
A = Activity, Mobility	Pale or cyanotic (Blue/gray)	Slightly cyanotic	Pink
R = Respirations	Absent	Weak, irregular	>15/min, rhythmic

The 5 Ps of successful tube feeding puppies: **Prewarm** – puppy and formula, **Premeasure** tube – nose to rib, **Pass** with chin down, **Pass** to the left, **Pinch** → vocalize before feeding.

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