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Care of Newborn Puppies

General Information

During the first few weeks of the newborn's life, the mother provides the necessities of warmth, nutrition and stimulation. The owner's responsibilities consist of careful observation to detect problems before they become serious.

Warmth: Room temperature should be at least 70° F. The puppies should be kept off cold floors because chilling can be fatal to young puppies.

Nursing: A well-fed healthy puppy has a round stomach and seems content. Notify the doctor if the puppies seem uneasy or cry frequently.

Crying: Extended crying is usually a sign of trouble and should be reported to the doctor immediately.

Tail docking/dewclaw removal: Puppies of breeds in which these procedures are done should be presented at 2 to 5 days of age. Please call for an appointment.

Eyes: The puppies' eyes should open at 10 to 14 days of age.

Weaning: Soon after the puppies' eyes are open, pan-feeding of milk may be started. Other foods may then gradually be added.

Recommended weaning diet: _____

Worms: A stool specimen should be brought to the office for laboratory examination when the puppies are _____ weeks old. Special instructions: _____

Vaccinations: A series of immunizations should begin at _____ weeks of age. The doctor will recommend a schedule for the appropriate vaccinations.

Other recommendations: _____
