Whelping Manual

Canine Companions for Independence
Breeder Caretaker Council
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Introduction

Welcome
Welcome to the joyful process of delivering and raising CCI Puppies! Your role as a Breeder Caretaker is the first step in giving a new CCI litter a proper start leading to the gift of independence for someone. The Breeder Caretaker Council (BCC) and CCI Breeding Department care about your commitment, responsibility, and enjoyment of this project as well as the health and comfort of the CCI Breeder and her pups.

Purpose
The Breeder Caretaker Council, along with CCI breeding staff, have collaborated to create a thorough and informative manual to help guide you through the process. We feel it is essential for those involved, especially those doing it for the first time, to gain advance knowledge of the whole process. Knowing what to expect and thus avoiding undue concern, will prepare you to effectively respond to those times when problems do arise.

Other Resources
This manual is just one of a variety of tools available to assist you. A resource list that includes books, videos, and websites containing helpful information is included at the back of the manual. Please keep in mind that some of the resource material is not created specifically for the CCI breeding program, and therefore, may not be appropriate or relevant to CCI breeders.

The Breeder Buddy System, linking experienced breeder caretakers with new breeder caretakers, is another invaluable resource available for you. You can find additional information about contacting Breeder Buddies, the Breeder Caretaker Council, and the CCI Breeding Program on the resource list.
Heat Cycles

**Common Cycle**
Most females come into season once every six to nine months. They stay in season about 21 days, ovulate normally and have a litter of puppies approximately two months later.

The early stage of the heat cycle is known as proestrus. During this time the female is not fertile and cannot be bred successfully. In a normal heat cycle the female will progress from proestrus to estrus. Estrus is sometimes referred to as “standing heat” and usually occurs toward the middle or end of the heat cycle. To result in a pregnancy, breeding must occur during estrus.

Variations in the estrus cycle can make it difficult to determine an optimum breeding schedule. Common irregularities are discussed below.

**Split Seasons**
A split season occurs when a female displays normal vulvar swelling and vaginal discharge indicating proestrus, i.e., the onset of the early stage of her cycle. However, in a split season the signs of a normal heat cycle stop abruptly before the female progresses from proestrus to estrus.

Two weeks to two months later the cycle restarts. This shortened, non-ovulatory cycle may recur several times until a normal cycle occurs.

**Persistent Anestrus**
There are two types of persistent anestrus in the female, primary and secondary. Primary anestrus is the lack of estrus cycling by 24 months of age. Causes of primary anestrus vary and may include abnormalities of sexual differentiation, hypothyroidism, severe systemic disease and nonfunctional ovarian cysts. Secondary anestrus is a failure to cycle within 12 to 18 months from the previous heat cycle, causing prolonged interestrous intervals. Causes of secondary anestrus also vary and may include hypothyroidism, luteal ovarian cysts, and exogenous steroids.

Estrus induction may be an option for females experiencing either primary or secondary anestrus where no underlying medical cause has been found. Methods of inducing a cycle typically include boarding the female with other in-season females or drugs.
Silent Heat  A silent heat is defined as ovarian activity without outward signs evident to people such as discharge or swelling. A male dog can detect silent heat by smelling pheromones. The best way to diagnose a silent heat is by performing a variety of tests such as vaginal cytology (microscopic evaluation of vaginal cells) or by running a progesterone level test. If CCI thinks a female has displayed a silent heat you may be asked to you bring her into the vet clinic for periodic checks.
Post-Breeding

Nutrition

When your CCI breeder first comes into season to be bred, we will begin to transition her to Eukanuba (Sporting) Premium Performance (EPP) food.

While she is at Schulz Campus she will be weaned gradually, decreasing her regular food and increasing EPP, keeping the same caloric intake per day. This process takes approximately 5 days.

You should continue with the EPP feeding guideline used at Schultz Campus until pregnancy is confirmed via ultrasound. You will then be instructed to follow the feeding guideline as outlined in the pregnancy section of this manual.

Behavior

Dogs all react differently to pregnancy. Typically, CCI breeders continue to act as they always do, especially during the first half of their pregnancy.

Some pregnant breeders may demonstrate the following:

- Lethargy
- Neediness/ clinging
- Marking while toileting
- Panting
- Sleeping more

Physical Changes

Some pregnant breeders may have the following physical symptoms:

- Vomiting, gurgly tummy
- Decreased appetite
- Slight clear mucous discharge from vulva
- Increased toileting needs
- Enlarged nipples

Exercise

Regular exercise is an essential part of keeping your CCI breeder healthy. Your CCI breeder dog can continue her regular daily exercise regimen. If your CCI Breeder is not already exercising regularly, start a walking program. Begin by walking short distances and gradually increase the distance / duration of the walk. Consistent daily exercise will ensure that your CCI breeder is better prepared for the delivery process. A fit breeding dog is a happy dog!
### Post-Breeding, continued

**Exercise, cont.** If in doubt about her tolerance for exercise or her capabilities, contact the CCI Breeding Veterinarian.

**Helpful Hints** Review the post-breeding timeline and whelping manual to familiarize yourself with the upcoming event.

**Must-do’s** Keep a watchful eye on your CCI breeder as she may still be “very attractive” to intact males.
### Pregnancy

#### Ultrasound

Most CCI breeders are examined via ultrasound at the CCI vet clinic or other approved clinics approximately four weeks after breeding. The ultrasound is a painless procedure involving the formation of a two-dimensional image used for examination of the growing fetuses. While the ultrasound will confirm pregnancy, it does not necessarily provide a reliable count of puppies. The ultrasound appointment is usually scheduled when the breeder is picked up from the CCI kennels. Please be sure to call and schedule your appointment in the event the breeders is transported by another person.

You will receive the Whelping and Early Socialization (WES) kit after an ultrasound has confirmed a pregnancy.

#### X-Ray

Approximately two weeks prior to your CCI breeder’s due date, contact the CCI vet clinic to schedule an appointment for an x-ray. The x-ray is done one week prior to your CCI Breeder’s due date to confirm the approximate number of puppies. At this time, you will be provided with drugs that will potentially be needed during the labor and whelping process.

#### Nutrition

Lack of appetite is common during pregnancy. To meet the nutritional needs of your breeder and her fetuses, increase the number of meals in the last week of gestation and divide the daily ration into 3-4 meals. Do not add supplements to her diet unless approved by CCI Breeding Veterinarian.

#### Behavior

If your CCI breeder has not displayed any of the pregnancy behaviors discussed in the Post Breeding section, it is still possible that she will display these behaviors in the 2nd half of the pregnancy:

- Increased or decreased appetite
- Lethargy
- Neediness / clinginess
- Marking while toileting
- Panting
- Sleeping more
Pregnancy, continued

Physical Changes  The following physical changes are common during pregnancy:

- Growing Belly
- Colostrum coming into mammary glands. Late in the pregnancy colostrum drops are sometimes observed on the nipples.
- Enlarged nipples
- Eye discharge
- Increased frequency and need to toilet
- Vulva discharge increases; in late pregnancy, it is observed in larger amounts. While usually clear, it can also be tinged with color. More extreme color changes warrant a call to the CCI Breeding Veterinarian.
- Diarrhea in late gestation if there are many puppies. The intestinal tract may be pressed by puppies and stool comes out in small amounts like toothpaste.

Exercise  Continuing with your regular exercise regimen is encouraged. However, if you and your CCI breeder are particularly active (5+ mile hike/runs) you will need to transition to a shorter and less strenuous exercise routine.

During the last week of pregnancy, it is important to go for shorter walks paying close attention to your CCI breeder’s energy level.

Helpful Hints  Go through the Whelping & Early Socialization (WES) Kit you picked up at CCI when your CCI breeder had her ultrasound to make sure all the items listed on your receipt are included.

Feed and cuddle your CCI breeder dog in the whelping pool to establish that it is a positive place to be.

Contact your Breeder Buddy to establish a plan for the whelping day.

Collect newspaper; separate out small ads and shiny paper.

To reduce staining from birthing discharge and to allow pups easy nipple access, trim longhaired dogs’ fur (include the belly, around nipples, back legs and tail) during the last week of pregnancy.
Pregnancy, continued

Must-do’s

Set up whelping box. See next chapter “Whelping Room Preparation.

It is safe to continue to administer monthly heartworm and flea/tick preventatives.

IMPORTANT: It is imperative that your CCI breeder be under direct supervision for the 48 hours prior to the whelp date. Now is a good time to incorporate this need into your family’s plans. The Breeder Caretaker MUST be with the breeding dog during labor and delivery of every litter.

Check with CCI Breeding Veterinarian before administering any/all medications (including ear medications). Many of them can be detrimental to the puppies in utero.
Whelping Room Preparation

When

By week seven you will need to have prepared a whelping room. Waiting longer might result in an unexpected and messy whelping in an unwanted area!

It’s a good idea to feed your breeder in the whelping pool or box one week or more prior to whelping. Sitting in the pool and rewarding her with a toy, treat and/or praise is recommended. This is especially beneficial and important for first time breeders to make the pool a positive and secure place.

Whelping Room

The whelping room should be in an area that is quiet and free of distractions. A spare room that is isolated from the rest of the house with access to an enclosed yard is ideal. Because the process of whelping can take between 2 - 14 hours, or longer, you should provide an easy chair or comfortable place for you to rest. It should also be a room that you will be comfortable spending the night in, so that you can keep a close eye on the pups for the first few days after whelping.

WES Kit

Items in the CCI issued WES kits include:
- Heating pad
- Heat lamp and extra bulbs
- Two puppy saucer feeding dishes
- Colored yarn
- Non toxic paint
- Puppy collars
- Digital thermometer and lubricant
- Suction bulb (baby ear / nose syringe)
- Whelping book
- WES manual
- Scale and tray
- Soft brush, comb, and nail clippers
- Fecalizer collector

Box or Pool

A five-foot plastic circular child’s wading pool makes an ideal whelping enclosure. The sides stretch enough to help prevent accidental crushing of puppies and is easy to clean. These pools are available to take home along with the WES kit you receive when your breeder’s ultrasound confirms pregnancy.

If you are handy, you can construct a 4x4 (or larger) box that is approximately 18 inches high. The wooden whelping
Whelping Room Preparation, continued

**Box or Pool cont.**  box must have a 3-inch wide railing, 4 inches above the floor, to protect the puppies from accidental crushing by the mother.

**Lining**
In order to be ready for the actual whelping, the whelping box or pool should be lined with newspapers.

Prior to whelping, make a deep bed of newspapers fanned around the bottom of the pool. Make the layers ten to twelve deep. During whelping you will be able to remove just the top layers of soiled newspaper after each whelp without having to redo the entire pool. Whelping produces lots of green tinged fluid, so have a trash can and extra newspaper ready, so you can remove the soiled layers or change papers in between whelps, or add layers as necessary.

**Bedding**
After puppies are whelped, the newspaper lining in the whelping pool or box should be discarded. Suggested bedding options post-whelp include:

- Sherpa mats that have a thin rubber backing
- Bath mats with a rubber backing
- Indoor/outdoor carpet (not the grass type)
- Moving or packing quilts or pads

Pooch Pads, training pad, chux’s, or newspapers should be used under the bedding to absorb moisture. Towels, sheets, mattress pads, and / or comforters should not be used as bedding. The suggested bedding options minimize the potential of fabric being folded over a puppy as mom and puppies move about in the whelping pool or box.

**Supplies and Equipment**
You will need the following supplies and equipment in the whelping room:

**Towels:** At least three dozen terry cloth or cotton towels - hand towel size. You will probably use a couple of towels for each pup. These are used to dry and clean the newborn pup, to catch the pup when it arrives and to rub the puppy down (to stimulate breathing) afterwards.

**Newspapers:** Lots of them!

**Tarp/piece of linoleum/etc.** to use on the floor under the whelping pool/box.
Whelping Room Preparation, continued

**Hold box/container:** to put next to the whelping pool that can hold the newborn pups in between whelps. This could be the bottom half of the crate your WES kit supplies came in, or a plastic storage-type box. A laundry basket or cardboard box also works well.

**Heating pad:** to be put in the holding box to keep newborn pups warm and comfortable during additional whelps. The heating pad should be covered with a towel and set on warm (not hot). Check the temperature frequently to assure that the pups don’t become too warm.

**Scale:** to record accurate weights.

**Colored yarn:** to identify the birth order of the pups. It is recommended that you have the yarn prearranged in the birth order, for quick and easy access during whelping. One suggestion is to scotch tape the yarns to a nearby surface.

**WES Manual and pen:** to record the time, pups’ weight, yarn color, sex, and coat markings as the pups are whelped.

**Dental Floss:** to tie off the umbilical cord, in case the mother doesn’t chew the cord or in cases where bleeding continues.

**Thermometer and lubricant:** to check your breeder’s temperature.

**Scissors:** to cut the umbilical cords.

**Baby bulb syringe:** to suction mucous from a newborn pup’s mouth, if necessary.

**Pedialyte popsicles:** for an energy boost for your breeder in between whelps (found in the grocer’s baby section).

**Disposable latex gloves:** in case you need to manually check the birth canal.

**Hand wipes:** for you.

**Cordless telephone with the necessary phone numbers:** CCI Breeding Veterinarian, local emergency vet, whelping buddy, etc.

**Clock:** to record the birth times in the WES Manual.
Whelping Room Preparation, continued

*Water bowl*

*Flashlight with fresh batteries*

*Leash and collar*

*Comfortable chair:* you may be there more than a little while. A good book, TV, radio....

**Helpful Hints**

Unfold newspaper so that it’s laying flat next to the whelping box. If you haven’t done so already, separate shiny ads and smaller pieces from the larger pieces for easy access.

Know what your CCI breeder’s normal temperature is by using the same thermometer pre- and post-whelp. Check your CCI breeder’s temperature well before her due date to establish her baseline temperature.

Whelping Room - scale, record keeping forms, newspaper lined whelping box, colored yarn, towels, supply basket, newborn holding box, and comfortable chair.
Labor

Nutrition
Lack of appetite is likely during labor and delivery. If needed, offer your breeder Pedialyte pops or chicken broth for an energy boost between whelps.

Behavior
Every breeder is different - some are very active during labor and delivery and some are passive during the process. Close monitoring of your CCI breeder is essential during this time. She may demonstrate:

- Increased restlessness/nervousness
- Lethargy
- Licking mouth/lips
- Yawning
- Panting
- Digging/nesting (caused by uterine contractions)
- Refusal to eat
- Clinginess to handler
- Intense look in the eyes
- Looking for escape routes
- Seeking seclusion
- Increased sense of urgency
- Whining
- Increased elimination

Physical Changes
Stage one labor starts with the onset of regular uterine contractions and ends with complete cervical dilation. The first noticeable sign of stage one labor is that your CCI breeder may refuse food the day labor starts. This stage may last between six and twelve hours and is associated with restlessness, panting, and nesting behavior. These same signs may occur intermittently during the last week of pregnancy so it can be difficult to detect real labor. Generally, your CCI breeder will become more and more clingy as stage one labor progresses. During stage one labor, you may notice abdominal contractions and / or a distracted expression on your CCI breeder.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A dark green discharge prior to delivery is cause for a call to CCI Breeding Veterinarian - day or night!

Daytime - Vet Clinic - 707-577-1745 or 800-813-5813
After Hours - Dr. Daniels home phone - 707-544-6736.
Helpful Hints

Limit the area for your CCI breeder dog to roam in your house to prevent her from nesting/digging/hiding/soiling in areas outside of the pool or whelping box.

IMPORTANT: During labor, take your CCI breeder out to toilet on a leash to prevent an unknown delivery of a pup.
**Delivery**

**Nutrition**
Offer water regularly.
Give frozen pedialyte cubes.
Placentas have no nutritional value - limit ingestion of placentas.

**Behavior**
Rapid and deep panting
Extreme anxiety is possible
Trying to escape
Burrowing
Digging (frantic)
Shredding

After delivery, mom opens the sac, cleans off the pups, and severs the umbilical cord. You may have to perform these functions for her. Ensure the sac is removed from the puppy's face immediately. If the sac is not broken during delivery, you will need to tear and remove it. Tie off the umbilical cord leaving approximately one inch on the puppy.

**Physical Changes**
Water will break causing a gush of clear liquid (up to 24 hours) before delivery of her first pup. If the dog’s water breaks and no puppy presents, call CCI Breeding Veterinarian relatively soon to discuss course of action.

Stage two labor starts with the movement of the first puppy through the cervix and ends with the complete delivery of the last puppy in the litter. At the onset of stage two labor, the fetal stretching of the maternal cervix causes increased uterine contractions and your CCI breeder may strain and push, contracting her voluntary abdominal muscles. The length of stage two labor varies depending on the number of litters your CCI breeder has had and the number of puppies in the uterus. CCI breeders should deliver puppies at intervals of one or more per hour. During labor it may be helpful to put a leash on your CCI breeder and get her up and moving. While you have your breeder up and around, carry a towel with you to be prepared for the possibility of a delivery. You may be advised by the CCI Breeding Veterinarian to intervene with calcium and oxytocin injections if the intervals between puppies are more than 1½ hours. See “Drug Information” on page 19 for more information. Physical changes include:

- Bulge in perineum (area between anus and vulva)
- Bubble appears at vulva
Delivery, continued

- Sac containing puppy is expelled or puppy can arrive without sac or placenta

During Delivery

Leave pups nursing on mom as much as possible because the nursing action may aid the contractions. However, move the litter to the warming box when the next delivery is imminent so that your CCI breeder dog doesn’t accidentally step on or squish a puppy.

If your CCI breeder goes an hour or more between deliveries contact CCI Breeding Veterinarian.

Daytime - Vet Clinic - 707-577-1745 or 800-813-5813
After Hours - Dr. Daniels home phone - 707-544-6736.

Record Keeping

Use the “Whelp Record Sheet” to record birth order, sex, weight, time of birth, coat color to keep track of the pups’ information during the delivery process. Be consistent when weighing the puppies. If you weigh one pup just after it is born you must do the same with each puppy of the litter. If you wait until the entire delivery is over, weigh all the pups at that time. A typical newborn puppy weighs between 8 and 18 ounces.

Sample Form

To insure accurate and timely monitoring of the puppies’ health, growth, and development, use the “Whelp Record Sheet” contained in the yellow folder in the manual pocket to record pups’ vital statistics. Please remember pups should be listed in order even if stillborn or deceased after birth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Whelp Began</th>
<th>AM or PM (circle one)</th>
<th>Dam</th>
<th>Litter letter</th>
<th>Sire</th>
<th>Whelp Record Sheet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puppy Number</td>
<td>Time of Birth</td>
<td>Pup #</td>
<td>Color</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1 Red</td>
<td>B Y M F</td>
<td>#2 Blue</td>
<td>B Y M F</td>
<td>#3 Purple</td>
<td>B Y M F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Delivery, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drugs</th>
<th>The following injectable drugs may be needed during whelping Calcium, Oxytocin, and Dopram. These drugs should all be kept at room temperature.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DO NOT USE ANY OF THESE DRUGS EXCEPT DOPRAM WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING CCI Breeding Veterinarian.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If needed and approved by CCI Breeding Veterinarian, calcium and oxytocin are to be injected under the skin between the shoulders. This is similar to giving puppy vaccinations and is the easiest way to give them. Pinch the skin between the shoulder blades to form a “tent” and inject the drug into the triangular area of the “tent” just below where you pulled up the skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Calcium</strong> - generally used before Oxytocin when whelping has started and at least one puppy has been born and the mom is not having contractions. Remember: Call CCI Breeding Veterinarian FIRST! If needed, you will be advised to give 3 cc (one syringe full) under the skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Oxytocin</strong> - generally two units of Oxytocin is used 15 minutes after the calcium if there is still not a puppy and the dam is not having contractions. Forty-five minutes after injection of the oxytocin contact CCI Breeding Veterinarian again if there is not a puppy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The syringes containing the oxytocin are labeled with the amount of oxytocin on the outside of the baggie. Some of the syringes have a large amount of air in them to keep the small amount of oxytocin in the syringe from leaking out. You can safely inject the air under the skin with the drug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dopram</strong> - is used to revive a non-breathing puppy. Give one syringe full directly into the tongue of the puppy while continuing to rub the puppy vigorously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Put used needles in the Sharps container (if provided) and return to CCI when you turn in the litter. Used syringes without the needles can be put in your trash container.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Write down the time and what drugs are given as reference information.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Delivery, continued

Complications

If a newborn pup does not move or start to breathe within 3 seconds of delivery, VIGOROUSLY and rapidly rub the puppy concentrating on its rib area with the puppy facing down. Give the dopram injection included in the package of whelping drugs within 60 seconds if the pup does not move or start to breathe. Continue to rub the puppy for up to 40 minutes if there are signs of life such as mouth opening, gasping for air, or some movement.

DO NOT SHAKE THE PUPPY UPSIDE DOWN OR ADMINISTER BRANDY.

If the puppy won’t nurse or stay latched on, call your Breeder Buddy or any council member for more instructions or suggestions on assisting nursing.

Unfortunately, stillbirths do sometimes occur. If your CCI breeder delivers a stillborn pup, temporarily store it in a paper or plastic bag in your freezer until you are ready to dispose of the remains. You may bury the stillborn pup, take it to your veterinarian for disposal, or bring the body to CCI. For record keeping purposes, maintain same order of birth for live and stillborn pups.

Exercise

Walks on a leash can stimulate or may be helpful in assisting your CCI breeder in the delivery of a puppy. Be prepared for outside whelps with a towel and flashlight if it is dark outside or just a towel during daylight.

Helpful Hints

Have a full tank of gas in your car, keys where you can find them, a leash, blanket and crate handy for emergency visits to the Veterinary clinic. Know which clinic you will go to and how to get there ahead of time.

The normal presentation of a puppy is either face first, stomach down or hindquarters first.

Use x-pens to surround the pool and confine the restless breeder.

Every dog is different - each whelp and each breeder will have different experiences.
**Delivery, continued**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Must-do’s</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When your CCI breeder is not in active labor, leash walk her frequently approximately every one to three hours. Take a towel to catch a newborn pup if delivered during straining.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After whelping is complete, remove your CCI breeder’s collar. This will prevent any puppies from becoming trapped and potentially injured or killed in her collar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While your CCI breeder may be a very social girl, limit the number of helpers in attendance to no more than 2 people in the same room. If you need more assistance have additional helpers relax in other parts of the house “on call”. As an analogy: Even the most social and outgoing of human mom does not want her entire family and friends present for this intense experience.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep your CCI breeder separated from other pets in your household. Although they may be “best buddies” at other times, other pets may distract and / or worry a laboring mom and / or a new mom.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Post Whelp - Week One

#### Nutrition
The new mother may be reluctant to eat the day she whelps. You can encourage her to eat by offering her favorite foods or a special treat. Her appetite should return to normal the day after whelping.

#### Behavior
Both first time and experienced breeders may need to be coaxed into taking good care of her pups. Your CCI breeder should be nursing and cleaning her pups frequently. However, some moms may be reluctant to nurse due to inexperience and/or health issues.

Puppy stools are rarely seen before the weaning process is started because cleaning the puppy poop as it comes out is part of your CCI breeder’s job. Some mothers keep a cleaner whelping area than others. To help mom rise to her best efforts, you can try rubbing a minute portion of peanut butter under the pups tails to get mom to lick them; this keeps the pups clean and teaches your breeder the cleaning behavior.

Give moms extra praise and petting when they nurse the pups to reward and reinforce the behavior. Call your breeder buddy or any council member for additional hints to help increase your CCI breeder’s mothering skills.

#### Physical changes
Following whelping, your CCI breeder has a decreased immune system and the puppies are susceptible to diseases. To avoid disease and unnecessary stress to mother and puppies, your CCI breeder should be exercised in her own home and yard and not be allowed in public until the puppies are weaned and have been turned in to CCI. **Puppies should never be out of their maternal environment until they are turned in to CCI.**

Post whelp, your CCI breeder may experience contractions, diarrhea, and / or a discharge.

**Contractions** will likely continue in your CCI breeder even after all the puppies are born. These last contractions are not as strong, but may be confused with labor. These contractions clean the uterus of postpartum debris resulting in a red mucous discharge which can continue for up to six weeks after whelping and should diminish over time.
Diarrhea is a very common aftermath of whelping because your female may have eaten placentas, is having strong uterine contractions, and is cleaning puppy poop. The intestinal tract is confronted with ingesta that it is not used to. Normally, her stools the day after whelping are black-green and loose and look quite similar to any placentas that were eaten. This should improve by day two after whelping.

Diarrhea may continue beyond week 1 to week 5 ½ as your CCI breeder is eating more food than normal and her intestinal tract may not completely digest all the food and bacterial overgrowth can occur.

A safe treatment for diarrhea is plain Kapectate - up to 1 ounce for 30 to 60 pounds of body weight three times per day. If your CCI breeder has so much diarrhea that she is not able to care for her puppies, call the CCI Breeding Veterinarian. Some breeders may need intravenous fluids and hospitalization if dehydration results from diarrhea or is accompanied by vomiting.

Discharge is normally green and usually stops within a week of whelping. However, a bloody discharge can be seen as late as six weeks post whelping. This is normal and not a cause for alarm unless your CCI breeder is off her feed, or is not interested in her puppies. Normal discharge does not smell and is quite intermittent.

Colostrum is a form of milk produced by the mammary glands in late pregnancy and the first few days after whelping. Colostrum supplies immune boosting ingredients, vitamins, minerals, enzymes and amino acids.

Milk typically comes in within 72 hours of whelping and replaces colostrum.

Complications

Appetite - Within 24 hours of whelping, your CCI breeder should be eating and her appetite should steadily increase. The first two signs of a post whelping problem are her refusal to eat and / or she curls into a ball and refuses to feed the puppies. If you notice puppies continually crying, check your CCI breeder to make sure she is feeding the puppies.
Post Whelp - Week One, continued

**Temperature** - Your CCI breeder’s temperature should be in the normal range of 100.5 to 102.5 degrees F. Monitor her temperature daily for at least two weeks after whelping. If her temperature is 103 and she is not eating call the CCI Breeding Veterinarian immediately. Antibiotics could save the lives of the puppies.

Lack of appetite and above normal temperature could indicate one of the following problems:

- **Mastitis** - an infection of the mammary systems. The puppies will fuss and seem weak. Your CCI breeder may be restless and not eat. The mammary glands may be hard and hot and feel solid and ropelike. This problem requires immediate veterinary attention. Mastitis generally occurs at peak lactation, around 3 weeks of age, but can occur as early as 7 days after whelping or as late as 5 weeks after whelping.

- **Metritis** - an infection of the uterus. Usually the symptoms are a lack of appetite, an abnormal temperature, and weak and fussy puppies. There may be a foul or abnormal discharge from the vulva. This problem requires immediate veterinary attention. You will usually see this problem within one to four days after whelping.

- **Eclampsia** - or “milk fever” is an extremely rare condition that generally occurs 1 to 3 weeks after whelping. It is caused by extremely low blood calcium levels. Symptoms of Eclampsia include stiffness, restlessness, and nervousness, progressing to muscle spasms and / or seizures. This problem is rare in large breeds and has NEVER been diagnosed in a CCI breeder. Treat this as an emergency and contact your CCI Breeding Veterinarian immediately.

- **Early Cessation of the Milk Supply** - The puppies will cry continuously and need to be fed a milk supplement. Contact your CCI Breeding Veterinarian immediately. This usually occurs between the end of week one and the beginning of week three.
Post Whelp - Week One, continued

Exercise

Going out for brief bathroom breaks is sufficient exercise for a mother during the first few days as she most likely will remain in the whelping pen at all times.

Helpful Hints

Place a bowl of food and water near the whelping pen for mom's easy access. Do not place in the pen itself as this could potentially injure the pups.

Minimize interruptions to your CCI breeder and give the litter lots of quiet time. Your role as a caretaker is to support your CCI breeder and see to her needs. She will oversee the needs of the puppies. Limit handling of pups with the exception of the following: weighing, trimming nails, cleaning whelping area, and health checks.

Confine your CCI breeder to an area for easy clean up of accidents. During the first week post whelp your CCI breeder may spend so much time with her pups that she will leave very little time to alert you to her immediate need to toilet. To avoid toileting accidents do not wait for a “toileting signal” from your CCI breeder. Encourage her to leave the pups when necessary to toilet. In addition, she may have discharge on her tail. In this situation a wagging tail could also require clean up.

Monitor and adjust the temperature in the whelping area as needed. Puppies will sleep in a layered pile if they are cold and individually if they are hot.

Must Do's

Pups must be weighed twice a day for the first week as weight gain is the most accurate measure of the mother’s milk supply and the puppies' health. A consistent weight gain is a sign of sufficient milk supply as well as a sign of pups’ good health. If in doubt about any particular pup's gain rate, weigh the puppy before it nurses and again afterwards. This will show you the actual volume of the milk consumed during nursing.

Puppies should not lose weight after day one. Contact your breeder buddy or the CCI Breeding Veterinarian if a puppy has lost weight after day one.

When weighing the pup, do a quick health check. Check its rectal area for moisture and check its eyes for any discharge.
Post Whelp - Week One, continued

Must Do’s Cont.
Check your CCI breeders’ mammary glands and vulva daily. Mastitis is an extremely serious illness that needs immediate veterinary attention. A hard and hot mammary gland that feels solid and ropelike is a sign of mastitis.

Exercise One
Complete and record Exercise One between day 5 and day 7. Exercise One form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.
### Post Whelp - Week Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrition</th>
<th>Increase your CCI breeder’s food amounts based on the feeding guidelines.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>From birth until three weeks of age, puppies are innately driven to perform two functions, sleeping and nursing. Although the pups do not display a tremendous variety of behaviors at this time, you may notice differences between pups. Your CCI breeder may start to spend slightly less time actually in the whelping box with the puppies. However, she should remain fairly close by or at least should check on her litter frequently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Changes</td>
<td>The puppies’ eyes begin to open between the 12th and 15th day. Hearing development is a gradual process that begins at birth. Between the 6th and 14th day the pups’ hearing ability begins to more fully develop. By the 17th day their ears are fully functional. Although puppies have some capacity to smell at birth, their sense of smell is not fully developed until around the 21st day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>Light exercise can be done 3 to 4 times daily. Keep your CCI breeder away from as many contagions as possible, including visits from other dogs, even the puppies’ sire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful Hints</td>
<td>Keep human interaction with the pups as minimal as possible. Do not handle pups for more than ten minutes per day. Keep the pups with their mother as much as possible, preferably most of the time. If your CCI breeder is conflicted about her duty to you and her duty to her pups, reward her with praise and a treat every time she lies down to nurse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must Do’s</td>
<td>Continue to weigh each puppy once a day at this age. Continued growth is shown by consistent weight gain. Run your hand down your CCI breeder’s nipples and mammary area daily to check for signs of mastitis. If your CCI breeder’s tissue feels very warm and extremely firm when you run your hands down both rows of breast, contact your CCI Breeding Veterinarian immediately. Rules for children up to age 13: only the breeder caretaker’s children may be around the pups until the pups are five weeks old. The caretaker’s children must be supervised by adults at all times when they are in the same area as the pups. Caretaker’s children may pet a pup if an adult is holding the pup.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE: Most of the literature on the best ways to raise a litter of puppies excludes children from the puppy area until the pups are five weeks old. Children move quickly, have high-pitched voices, and usually are not as skilled as adults in handling pups. Puppies are fragile. CCI knows that a lot of breeder caretakers have children and wants to let them enjoy the puppies also. For this reason, contact is allowed with these very specific rules. Please stay within the guidelines for interactions between children and puppies.

Exercise Two
Observe and record the day that each of the pup's eyes first begin to open. Use the day of birth, not the calendar date. (Example: Day 15, not June 3rd)

Exercise Two form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.
# Post Whelp - Week Three

## Nutrition
Adjust your CCI breeder’s food intake according to the feeding guidelines.

## Behavior
You will notice dramatic changes in the puppies’ behavior as their sensory abilities develop. This transition begins around the 16th day and will be evident by an increased level of activity and curiosity. These changes provide the puppies with all sorts of new information from which they can learn about their environment. You will observe the pups deliberately sniffing, licking, and eventually mouthing objects. The beginning of vocalizations and tail wagging will also become evident and investigatory and seemingly playful interactions between the pups will begin. Along with these new developments the puppies will begin to get their first set of teeth (milk teeth). Although uncommon, near the 21st day your CCI breeder may begin to regurgitate food for the puppies to eat. Pups will now start to walk more and begin to show signs of playing. Their eyes may be open and their ears will be opening at the end of this week.

## Physical Changes
You should notice that the puppies’ eyes begin to open between the 12th and 15th day. As the puppies’ hearing continues to develop, you will notice them become aware of you when you enter their environment.

## Exercise
Mom may increase her exercise slightly.

## Helpful Hints
Watch for pups falling out of the whelping area from now on. They can be restrained for a few days by surrounding the pool with an x-pen with a board or cardboard barrier in place to allow mom to jump over.

Mom is more likely to regurgitate her food if the pups are allowed to nurse shortly after she has eaten.

Mom spends less time lying in the pool with the pups, sometimes as little as a couple of minutes four times per day. A constant weight gain will show that the pups are getting enough to eat. Cover only one side of the pool with material for bedding. Allow the pups’ access to whatever absorbent material you are using on the other side. Pups instinctually begin to move off their sleeping area to eliminate. Promoting this action will help litter box training later and may also help in eventual housebreaking.
Post Whelp - Week Three, continued

**Must Do's**

- Continue to weigh each puppy twice a week at this age. Continued growth is shown by consistent weight gain.
- Begin to cradle each puppy on a frequent basis. Hold puppy securely on your lap and gently place the puppy on its back. While some puppies may relish this individual attention and belly rub, some puppies may instinctively resist this position.
- Continue to watch the pups for eye opening dates for exercise two as there is some overlap of time for that exercise.

**Exercise Three**

- Complete and record the results of Exercise Three.
- Exercise Three form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.
Weaning

Overview
The weaning process, i.e., encouraging the pups to get their nourishment from solid food, begins when the pups are given their first mush meal. As the puppies begin to get their nourishment from solid food, your CCI Breeder’s milk supply will begin to diminish.

Many breeders start to become disinterested in feeding their pups once solid food is introduced which makes the weaning process easier. However, all moms and puppies take to the transition period differently so it is extremely important to be alert to potential problems.

Getting Started
The weaning process should begin at 28 days of age. The puppies should be offered a wet gruel made from the supplied weaning diet and warm water. Initially the mixture should be approximately 30% weaning diet and 70% warm water (100°F / 38°C). This mixture will be rather soupy which allows the puppies to easily lap up the gruel.

Although there is no set rule on how much gruel should be prepared, a good rule of thumb is to mix approximately ¼ cup of weaning mixture with approximately 2/3 to ¾ cup of water per puppy per feeding. For example, for a litter of 8 puppies, mix 2 cups of weaning diet with 5 ¼ to 6 cups of water. The mixture should be offered twice on the first day of the weaning process and four times on the second day.

At first the puppies will wear more of the mixture than they consume so it is advisable to place the puppies in an area that is easily cleaned. It should not be necessary to bathe the puppies following the introduction of gruel as your CCI breeder will gladly perform this duty.

Your CCI breeder’s peak lactation period occurs around four weeks. Because the puppies are consuming large quantities of milk, do not be alarmed if the puppies do not eat all of the gruel that is offered.
### Weaning, continued

#### Days 3 - 5

Increase the dry mixture to approximately 40% with 60% water. In addition, increase the dry mixture from ¼ cup to approximately 1/3 cup per puppy per feeding. Continue to feed gruel four times per day.

Begin to offer the puppies clean fresh water in a separate container. Up to this point, the breeder’s milk has been the sole source of fluids. Since the puppies become less dependent on mother’s milk for nourishment, their source of hydration is also decreased. It is critical to ensure that each puppy is acquiring adequate intake of both food and water. A puppy that is resisting the weaning process or who is simply a slow learner can become dehydrated very quickly.

#### Days 6 - 8

The puppies are approximately 5 weeks old and are rapidly becoming less dependent on their mother’s milk as they consume more food and water at mealtime. Transition the puppies to the next step by increasing the percentage of solid mixture to approximately 45% with approximately 55% water.

Add approximately 5 dry kibbles of your CCI breeder’s food to the mixture. Although it is an adult kibble, the warm water will soften the kibble for the puppies. Increase the dry mixture from 1/3 cup to ½ cup per puppy per feeding. The puppies should begin to finish most of their meals during this time period. Fresh water should be present at all times.

#### Days 9 - 12

Transition the puppies to 50% gruel and 50% dry kibbles. This will involve an increase of approximately 10% kibble each day. Start to separate your CCI breeder from the puppies on a daily basis. This separation along with decreasing her food intake will help to reduce her milk production.
Weaning, continued

Days 13 - 14
This will be the final transition for the puppies before they are completely weaned. Feed the puppies four times per day as follows:

- Transition the puppies from the weaning diet with mom’s kibble to the Large Breed Puppy formula.
- Feed soften ½ cup puppy kibble with ½ cup of warm water per puppy and feed twice per day.
- Feed two additional meals of only dry kibble only.

Day 15 forward
At six weeks of age, the puppies should be completely able to obtain sufficient levels of both food and water. Ideally, your CCI breeder should be completely separated from the litter for at least 3 days to prevent nursing. If this is not possible, some puppies may continue to nurse.

Key Points
The weaning process is a tricky period. The time between weeks 5 and 7 is an important socializing time between your CCI breeder and her puppies. However, weaning must be complete by the time puppies are 6 weeks old. In most cases, weaning takes place gradually and very naturally by following the steps outlined above and by:

- Decreasing the amount of food given to your CCI breeder
- Ensuring that the breeder does not have access to the pups prior to each feeding time. The breeder should not be in the same room during feeding time. Think of her milk as “dessert” for the puppies.
- Limiting the amount of time the puppies spend nursing.

If your CCI breeder is having difficulty giving up this part of motherhood, it may be helpful to put a large t-shirt on her when she is with the puppies. Remember, weaning is a gradual process and should not be achieved over a 3-4 day period. If a breeder is forced to go “cold turkey” she will become engorged, miserable, and more likely to develop mastitis.

Teats should be checked daily during the weaning process for redness and solid masses. Contact the vet clinic immediately if you have concerns.
## Post Whelp - Week Four

### Nutrition

Adjust mom’s feeding regimen to allow increase in volume of her food. Do not begin weaning her away from puppies, but do start puppies on the weaning gruel on Day 28 only. Continue weighing pups to assure adequate weight gain.

### Behavior

You will see the puppies becoming quite animated and you should see a lot of interaction with littermates. The puppies can begin to eat food (see feeding guidelines); the dam should be in the same vicinity with them as much as possible. She may limit her time nursing, as the pups can drain her completely in a few minutes three or four times per day. She will begin to discipline the pups; this behavior is very necessary to the puppies. Now it’s time to step into the litter area and let them freely come up to interact with you.

### Physical changes

Pups will be growing by leaps and bounds. As the puppies become more independent and curious you may need to fortify their environment to prevent escapes from the puppy pool / box.

During the weaning process (starting at Day 28) the puppies’ intestinal tracts may not have enough good bacteria from the dam to process the new food that they are ingesting. As a result, the new food is not completely processed and puppy stools are loose. Puppy diarrhea may be more likely if the weaning process is started before 28 days of age because the puppy’s intestinal tract is still adjusted for processing mother’s milk. Much of the puppy diarrhea is extra water in the stool. If the puppies are alert and act normal, loose stools are not a problem and will gradually get firmer as the puppy’s intestinal tract adjusts to the new food.

A wet tail and wet anal area are common signs of diarrhea. If the puppies are vomiting and having diarrhea they probably have a parasite or intestinal infection. Have your veterinarian run a fecal sample, including giardia. If that is negative and the vomiting and diarrhea runs through the entire litter there is probably an underlying viral infection. You will need to make sure that the puppies do not get dehydrated. Generally the intestinal infections only last about 24 hours per puppy. If you have a more serious problem, call the CCI veterinary clinic or your regular veterinarian.
Post Whelp - Week Four, continued

**Exercise**

Pups need more room to roam now. Move them out of the whelping pool / box into a larger contained area.

**Helpful Hints**

Starting on Day 28 play the CD while you are away as the noise is instructional for the pups but can be irritating for people.

During the time you spend with each puppy, you should remove the puppy from the litter and handle it gently, making sure to touch its entire body.

Consider building a “litter box” with pine shavings as a puppy toilet area. One way to set this up is to use a wood frame approximately 3 feet by 3 feet (doesn’t have to be that big!) or a plastic “under the bed box” to hold the pine shavings. Set the box in the puppy pen on a sheet of linoleum with a layer of newspapers or a tarp on top of the linoleum and then top it off with lots of pine shavings. It will require work and patience to get the pups to toilet in the pine shavings. All pups need to toilet right after they eat and when they first wake up. For a day or two, as many times a day as you can, simply put them in the litter box after they eat or when they wake up to get them used to the idea. They will have lots of accidents outside the box for a week or so, but if you diligently clean up the outside area of toileting smells, the pups will begin to trot to the pine shavings to toilet.

During the summer, if the pups are outside, watch for bees and flies around them. Some breeder caretakers have reported using mint plants to discourage yellow jackets from bothering the outside puppy environment.

**Must Do’s**

Play the Acoustics for Dog CD on a portable stereo placed fairly close to the puppy pen. Play it loud enough so the pups can hear it, but do not blare it the first few times you use it. Later, increase the volume a bit.

Parvo is a viral infection that puppies are extremely susceptible to. Symptoms include: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, extreme listlessness, rapid dehydration and death. Parvo vaccination of the mom does not always prevent this disease.
Take these important steps to limit the puppies’ exposure to parvovirus:

1. Do not take the puppies to any new environment without first discussing it with the breeding manager. This includes but is not limited to parks, homes of friends, classrooms, studios for pictures, or any other gathering, even a CCI function.
2. Do not have a going away party for the litter before they go to the National kennel.
3. Before puppies are handled by friends or neighbors, make sure that everyone who handles the puppies washes their hands, takes off their shoes, and / or steps in a disinfectant.
4. Do not allow anyone to handle a puppy if they have handled other puppies the same day.
5. Do not allow any outside dogs, including the sire of the litter, CCI pups or graduates, into your home.
6. Practice the adage, “better safe than sorry.”

Exercise Four

Complete and record Exercise Four responses between Day 25 and Day 27.

Exercise Four form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.
Post Whelp - Week Five

Nutrition The weaning process continues. The pups should be getting 1/3 cup of soaked puppy food per puppy four times each day. This soaked food should contain about one-half cup of water as well. Pups should be fed puppy food before they are allowed to nurse.

Behavior

**Imprint Phase** The development and experiences of a pup between the ages of approximately 22-49 days is an extremely critical time, sometimes referred to as the “imprint phase”. This means that the experiences the puppies have during this time can have a lasting affect on the pups’ lifelong behavior.

Many behaviors developed during this time become permanent. For example, a puppy that has not interacted with people during this phase will be incapable of interacting normally with people throughout its lifetime. This incapacity will be evident in the pup’s fear of people and / or inability to form strong attachments to people. Conversely, puppies that are reared apart from their mother or littermates will not be capable of interacting appropriately with other dogs throughout their lifetime. If there is a puppy in the litter that is unable to compete to nurse from the dam, it is critical that the puppy remain with the litter anyway throughout its first seven weeks. The puppy should only be separated during periods of bottle-feeding and later on during its period of individual socialization with you.

It is critical for the puppies to continue to stay with the dam and littermates, although mom will jump in and out of the puppy area. They are learning to communicate with one another, interact appropriately, to read signals, and to accept discipline from their mother and littermates. The puppies’ mother is the best disciplinarian and teacher they can have at this stage. She will be consistent and clear, yet gentle and fair. Begin to get the puppies used to some grooming procedures. Up until this time, you have handled the pups on a daily basis allowing them to adjust to and accept your handling of their feet, ears, mouth, tail and body. Although you will see clear differences emerging in their personalities, none of the puppies should react to your handling in a dramatic and negative way, i.e., constant violent struggling or vocalizations. It is part of your job to accustom the puppies to handling. A young puppy can easily learn that handling by a human can be tolerated and a pleasant experience. Puppies handled in this way from an early age may develop into the type of dog that happily trots over to it’s handler when the brush is held out as the dog looks forward to this gentle, individual attention.
Post Whelp - Week Five, continued

Daily handling of the puppy will accomplish more than teaching the puppy to accept grooming and medical care. The relationship that you are developing with the puppies is as their leader. You will note in watching the dam with her puppies that although she is incredibly tolerant, there comes a time when she has clearly had enough and lets the puppies know this quite emphatically and effectively. In a firm, gentle, and fair manner, she maintains her position as leader of the puppies and they hold a great deal of respect for her dominant position. Because dogs are pack animals they require a leader in their group. Young puppies are not suited for the job of leader and it is logical that the mother assumes this role. It is important that in your interaction with the puppies that they come to view you (the human) as a leader as well.

Physical Changes
From days 29-35 you will continue to note dramatic changes in the puppies’ activity levels. This is due in large part to their newly developed auditory, visual and motor capabilities. They are entering a stage during which they are capable of learning through their experiences with other pups, their mother, you, and their environment in general.

Exercise
Provide pups with items to crawl into, around, and over.

Helpful Hints
Pups can benefit from slightly increased socialization time one-on-one with adult guests.
Post Whelp - Week Five, continued

**Must Do’s**

Weigh each pup twice this week to assure adequate food intake. Collars should be put on the pups this week and should remain on the pups from now on. Make sure the collars are on snug enough that they don’t allow paws, chins or anything else to get caught. A loose collar is very dangerous. The pups are growing daily at this point and the collars will need to be checked regularly and adjusted accordingly.

Fecal samples must be collected and sent in for analysis for parasites and/or bacterial infections. Normal looking stools may still contain organisms that can be easily treated if identified early. Using the fecalizer collectors included in the WES kit, collect samples from the most irregular looking stools. If possible, identify which puppy was the source of the sample and use fresh stools. Your CCI Breeding Veterinarian will have results of the samples and give treatment, if needed.

**Exercise Five**

Complete and record Exercise Five between Day 29 and Day 33.

Exercise Five form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.
Post Whelp - Week Six

Nutrition
Adjust your CCI breeder’s food intake to reflect either her need for weight loss or weight gain. You will also be slowly decreasing her food in preparation for weaning the pups. Watch and adjust puppy food amounts to reflect their increasing size.

Behavior
During the sixth week (days 36 - 42) the pups should continue to receive the types of attention you began to provide at 29 days. It is important to continue their daily, individual play sessions.

Continue to socialize the pups with new adults and children making sure to first educate and supervise all interactions with young children. Play sessions should remain gentle. Nothing should be done that encourages the puppy to mouth you (put it’s open mouth on a body part) or snarling behavior. The pups should have begun teething by this time so be careful not to incite their bite reflex. DO NOT wave your hands around their mouths or pat their mouths in play. These types of actions can encourage them to use their razor sharp baby teeth to bite which could be the beginning of a very bad habit.

Do not play tug of war games with the puppies as this can teach them to clamp down hard with their mouths.

Remember, behavior that is cute for a tiny puppy may not be so cute for a full-grown 75-pound dog. Behaviors taught now will be retained for life. Puppies that are jumping up on your legs or biting at your shoes should be discouraged. Don’t pet or pick up a pup that is jumping on you or the puppy x-pen or box. Step away from a pup that is biting your feet.

If you are concerned about any of the puppies’ behaviors please call the Breeding Department.

Physical Changes
Pups will fight harder and longer now. Let the pups work out their conflicts unless a pup is continually drawing blood from its siblings. The pups are constantly challenging each other to figure out the litter hierarchy.
**Post Whelp - Week Six, continued**

**Exercise**

Let the puppies out into a bigger enclosed area each day and provide them with things to climb, explore, and experience. Some ideas include a ladder laid flat, a wheelbarrow turned on its side, and toddler’s playground equipment. To prevent puppy escapes, you may need to add fortification to enclosures and X-pens to insure that the puppy environment is safe and secure.

**Helpful Hints**

It is time to begin crate training. The puppies have probably been exposed to a crate when you clean their box or if you have a crate in their play area. This is NOT crate training. To begin the crate training process, put the puppy in the crate and close the door.

On the first day of crate training, place two puppies in a crate together in a room away from the rest of the litter. Leave them alone for 5 minutes. Rotate the entire litter through this process.

On the second and third day of crate training place one puppy in a crate with a toy and / or a treat. Leave the puppy alone for 5 minutes. Rotate the entire litter through this process.

On the fourth and fifth day of crate training place one puppy in a crate with a toy and / or a treat. Leave the puppy alone for 10 minutes. Rotate the entire litter through this process.

On the sixth day of crate training place one puppy in a crate with a toy and / or a treat. Leave the puppy alone for 15 minutes. Rotate the entire litter through this process.

Once the pup is in the crate, catching a quiet moment after the pup has been noisy is a key learning step. Rather than waiting for the full amount of time suggested in the guidelines above, reward the calm and quiet pup by releasing him or her.

While the litter is in your home, continue to slowly add to the time the puppy is left alone in the crate but do not leave the puppy alone in the crate for more than one hour. Continue crate training activities described above consistently until turn in to Puppy Park.

**Must Do’s**

Play the CD, trim nails, check collars for fit, and switch to dry food.
Post Whelp - Week Six, continued

Exercise Six

Complete and record Exercise Six.

Exercise Six form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.
Post Whelp - Week Seven

**Nutrition**
Continue to monitor your CCI breeder’s weight status and adjust her food amounts accordingly.

**Behavior**
Pups are maturing and becoming more exploratory and bolder. Litter hierarchy increases and pups become even more active.

- Continue your daily interactions with each pup. Work with obstacles, allow access to safe toys and play training. Introduce some new obstacles to the puppies such as an old car tire, a variety of balls of different sizes and textures, new sounds, different animals (cats), people with beards, floppy hats, etc.

- You must assert yourself as emphatically and effectively with the pups so that they learn to view humans as leaders. A puppy or dog that views itself as the leader of its human pack is likely the one who runs the household (drags the owner on walks, growls over its food dish, will not allow certain handling, may bite someone, etc).

- Pups must be confined in crates when you bring them to CCI. Do not allow pups to run loose in your vehicle. You may borrow crates from CCI, but you must contact the CCI Vet Clinic in advance.

**Physical Changes**
Puppies continue to grow. Nails grow rapidly and the pups spend lots of time interacting with each other. They are large enough now to knock down the x-pen and escape. The puppies physical set-up will need to be fortified to ensure their safe containment. Watch for ways that they can climb or tunnel out.

**Exercise**
Mom’s exercise regimen can begin to return to her pre-pregnancy levels and activities.
Post Whelp - Week Seven, continued

Helpful Hints
Mom will spend little or no time with the pups now, so the pups will entertain each other. Keep the litter box clean and expect to do a load of laundry per day for puppy rugs, bedding, etc.

Either this week or next week you will be transporting the pups to CCI Puppy Park. To ease the stress on the pups, do the following exercise. Put the CCI crate out in the car and rotate the pups by two, putting them in the crate for 15 minutes. As with any puppy environment, make sure that the climate is appropriate. When you bring the pups to Puppy Park, you may bring mom along or leave her home, whichever you feel would be less stressful for her.

Consider taking the pups for a crated ride in the car to become used to transportation, but DO NOT allow them out anywhere except your home to avoid exposure to illness.

Must Do’s
Weigh pups, clip nails, check collar fit and adjust if needed. Play CD and give each pup crate time.

Exercise Seven
Complete and record Exercise Seven between Day 44 and Day 47.

Exercise Seven form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.
### Post Whelp - Week Eight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrition</th>
<th>Pups are still growing, so once again adjust their food levels using the feeding guidelines.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>Expect lots of vocalizing, prevent breakouts and escapes, and continue to watch for possible hazards to inquisitive pups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Changes</td>
<td>Pups should be growing and getting much bigger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>Pups with room to run and play will be more content and possibly, even quieter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful Hints</td>
<td>Lots of new experiences to allow pups to investigate are called for this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare your car for the puppies to travel to CCI keeping mind the need to maintain a comfortable temperature inside the car. To ease the stress on the pups, do the following exercise. Put the CCI crate out in the car and rotate the pups by two, putting them in the crate for 15 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must Do’s</td>
<td>Give pups one-on-one time and time in the crate. Watch for loose stools, runny eyes, and possible skin irritations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When you bring the pups to Puppy Park, you may bring mom along or leave her home, whichever you feel would be less stressful to her. The choice is yours unless the CCI Breeding Veterinarian has requested that you bring her in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pups must be confined in crates when you bring them to CCI. Do not allow pups to run loose in your vehicle. You may borrow crates from CCI but you must contact the CCI Vet Clinic in advance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Eight</td>
<td>Complete and record Exercise Eight between Day 49 and Day 52.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exercise Eight form is contained in the yellow folder in manual side pocket.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercises

One  Puppies are born with an instinct to nurse which is facilitated by several reflexes. To test a pup’s nursing and overall strength, place an old towel on the floor. (Use the floor rather than a table to prevent a pup from falling off the table.) Use a marker or colored tape to label a distance of 18 inches on the towel. Place the pup on the towel at the starting line and gently cup the pup’s muzzle with your fingers so the pup feels contact surrounding its nose. If the reflex is triggered, the puppy will push its way in some sort of direction against your hand. Stop the test when the pup pushes your hand past the “finish line” at one and a half feet, or after the pup has pushed for 15 seconds, whichever comes first. Record each pup’s reflex response.

Two  The time when a pup’s eyes open is a good indicator of puppy growth and maturation. Different pups will most likely have different results during the time frame for these observations.

Three  The earliest sensory perception that a pup develops is the sense of smell. Pups are likely to imprint on the scent of the breeder caretaker at a very young age. Gently press your nose face-to-face with the pup’s nose and breathe normally either through your nose or mouth for 30 seconds using a second hand on a watch to time the behaviors below:
1) At which second did the pup lick you, if at all?
2) If pup did lick, how many times during the 30 seconds?
3) Did any puppies not lick you?

Four  Puppies ears begin to open in the third week. Functioning of the auditory senses is reflected by a startle response, i.e., any sudden, strong motion, to a loud noise. While all the pups are sleeping, hit a metal saucepan lid with a metal spoon, count to three, and then clang again. Make as loud a SINGLE noise as possible. Which pups exhibit a startle jump after the first clang? Which pups exhibit a startle jump after the second clang? When this test is complete, place the saucepan lid in the puppies’ pen at least three feet away from the nearest pup and step back and observe which pups moved to within one foot of the lid within 10 seconds and which pups did not react at all.
Exercises, continued

Five
A key signal in social interactions among mammals is eye contact. Sitting outside the puppy pen, cradle the pup with your arms and breathe on its muzzle three times. Look away from the pup’s eyes, say “Canine Companions” three times in your normal tone of voice. After finishing this look into the puppy’s eyes and begin counting silently to ten.

After the third “Canine Companions” how many seconds does it take before the pup makes eye contact with you? The pup may not look at you or may not look immediately. Continue observing up to a maximum of 10 seconds. The exercise is finished as soon as the puppy looks away from your eyes.

1. How many seconds does the pup maintain eye contact without looking away?
2. Which pups never made eye contact?

Six
Young mammals have strong exploratory tendencies and these are often in conflict with fearfulness and apprehension. Take each pup individually to a new room in your house. This room should have a hard flooring surface (linoleum, concrete, wood, etc.) and be empty of other people or animals. While standing in the center of the room, place the pup about 2 feet in front of you, facing away from you. Begin counting silently to ten while you remain motionless and observe the puppy’s actions. Count and observe for 10 seconds only.

1. How many seconds before the pup takes its first step?
2. Was the first step to turn towards you? To back up to you? To move away from you? Check the appropriate choice.
3. Does the pup show any signs of quivering?
4. Does the pup whine, cry, or bark? Continually? Stops and starts? Check the appropriate choice(s).
5. At the end of ten seconds how many feet away from the starting point is the puppy?
### Seven

New stimuli can be interesting or intimidating depending upon the puppies’ emotions. In this test, new sound is used as a stimulus. Connect two x-pens and set up on a hard surface inside the house. If the litter is larger than 6 pups, divide into random groups. Place a crate, cardboard box, or similar large barrier upside down in the middle of the pen. The barrier must be large enough and solid enough for the pups to hide behind if they choose. Stand approximately four feet from the edge of the pen and get the attention of all the pups so they move in front of the box/barrier. Shake a soda can filled with a handful of pennies and is taped shut. Make this loud noise for three seconds.

1. Which pups exhibit a startle response at the start of the noise?
2. After stopping the noise, which pups are behind the cardboard box/barrier out of view?

Set the can in the pen and take two steps back.

3. Within a count of ten seconds, which pups come to within two feet of the can to investigate?
4. Which pups touch the can within ten seconds?

### Eight

In this test, a garbage bag is used to create a new sight and sound stimulus. Stand in the middle of the pen while pups are all awake and looking at it, shake garbage bag as if to open it. Continue shaking for a total of 15 seconds.

1. Which pups first run away during this time?
2. Which pups first approach you during the noise?

Hold the bag still at cheek level so the pups can’t bite it for another 10 seconds.

3. Which pups come to within 3 feet of you during this period?
4. Which pups showed no response?
Pick Up and Drop Off Etiquette

**Breeders** If you are preparing to drop off or pick up your breeder please:

- Call the vet clinic as soon as you notice your CCI breeder is in heat and make arrangements to bring her in. Provide the clinic with the date the breeder’s heat cycle started. All breeders must be brought in within 3 days of the start of their season.

- Clinic hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, and Wednesday through Friday. The clinic is closed between 12 - 1 p.m.

- Bring your CCI breeder in on leash and under control. Do not take her out of your vehicle unless on leash. An adult should handle your CCI breeder while on CCI’s campus or in the vet clinic.

- If your CCI breeder is on any medications, bring them with you. The exception to this is her monthly heartworm prevention medication. If she is at the vet clinic on the first of the month, we will dispense heartworm medication from our inventory.

- If your CCI breeder is eating something other than Eukanuba bring enough food for her stay or enough for her to be weaned onto the maternal diet.

- Pick up your CCI breeder on the pre-arranged pick-up date and time. If you are unable to make the pick-up date, call the veterinary clinic with as much notice as possible to make alternative arrangements. Keep in mind we arrange your dog’s bath schedule and determine kennel space availability for incoming dogs based on these scheduled departures.

- Bring your collar and leash when picking up your CCI breeder.

- If you suspect a medical condition, do not wait until the dog goes into heat or comes to CCI for a visit to have it checked out.

- Bathing and nail trimming and overall grooming are your responsibilities. Do not forego these things until you bring her into CCI.
Pick Up and Drop Off Etiquette, continued

Puppies  If you are preparing to bring in a litter of puppies please:

- Puppies must be in crates for transport to CCI. If you have a large litter you may call the vet clinic to request additional crates prior to your puppy park date.

- Unless told otherwise, check in at the veterinary clinic when you arrive to drop off puppies and park at the east end of the vet clinic.

- Caretakers should arrive at the pre-arranged date and time. If you cannot make your scheduled time, call the vet clinic as soon as possible. There are several factors that make late or early arrivals extremely difficult for the kennel and veterinary staff.

- Keep your CCI breeder on leash and under control at all times during this process.

- Return all equipment (cleaned) at the service entrance side.
Contact Guidelines

Puppy Raisers
Contact between the puppy raiser and the breeder caretaker is at the discretion of the puppy raiser. Breeder caretakers who wish to correspond with puppy raisers are asked to write a short note to the Breeder Caretaker Council at P.O. Box 446 Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446 requesting that their contact information be given to the puppy raisers. This information is then passed on to each of the puppy raisers of the litter. It is then the choice of the puppy raiser whether or not to respond.

Litter Photos
Litter photos (that are not puppy specific) may be included and sent to puppy raisers via the Breeder Council. The note and photos should be placed in individual unsealed envelopes (with postage attached by the breeder caretaker) and given to the breeding program staff at puppy turn-in. A letter from the Breeder Caretaker Council will then be added to the envelopes and each one will be addressed and mailed to a puppy raiser. Please note that the photos must be of the entire litter so that any envelope can be addressed to any puppy raiser.

Appropriate comments
While contact between the breeder caretaker and each puppy is critical during the puppy’s first seven weeks, it is not indicative of the puppy’s success in the CCI training program. Please avoid making assumptions about the puppy’s future when communicating with the puppy raiser. An example of an inappropriate comment is, “This is the best puppy in the litter. I know he will be a CCI graduate.” or “Something is wrong with this puppy. I doubt he will complete the program.”

CCI needs each puppy raiser to give 100% of his or her effort to the program. We do not want them to be disillusioned by a personal observation made during the short time that the puppy was housed in the breeder caretaker’s home.

Puppy placement
Litters are distributed randomly to each region. Breeder caretakers cannot choose puppies for specific puppy raisers.

Guideline
While communicating with puppy raisers, please focus any and all concerns about a puppy’s training, behavior, and / or medical care back to the CCI puppy and training staff. Please respect each puppy raiser’s relationship with the training staff and support CCI guidelines and recommendations about the puppy’s care.
Feeding Guidelines - 50 to 60 Pounds

Use the following guidelines to determine your CCI breeder’s feeding amount and frequency during pregnancy and lactation. These guidelines may need to be adjusted based on your CCI breeder’s specific nutritional needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Litter Size</th>
<th>Weight At Breeding (or ideal weight if overweight)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 Pounds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55 Pounds</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60 Pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy Weeks 1-5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1 ¼ cups 2 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ cups 2 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ cups 2 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pregnancy Weeks 6-9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1 ¼ cups 3 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ cups 3 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lactation Days 1-7</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>1 ½ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ½ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ cups 3 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lactation Days 8-14</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 4 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 4 x day</td>
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<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 4 x day</td>
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<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>1 ½ cups 4 x day</td>
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<td>1 ½ cups 4 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ cups 4 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lactation Days 15-21</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 4 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 4 x day</td>
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<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
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<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 4 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lactation Days 22-31</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 5 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lactation Days 32-36</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation Days 37-42</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ⅛ cups 2 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage</td>
<td>Litter Size</td>
<td>Weight At Breeding (or ideal weight if overweight)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>65 Pounds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 2 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 1-5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 6-9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 1-7</td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>1 3/4 cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 8-14</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 4 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 4 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 15-21</td>
<td>≥ 8 pups</td>
<td>2 cups 4 x day or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 22-31</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 2/3 cups 5 x day or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 5 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 32-36</td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>2 cups 5 x day or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 2/3 cups 5 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 37-42</td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 6 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>2 cups 6 x day or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 43-47</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 48-52</td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>2 cups 3 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 53-56</td>
<td>≤ 4 pups</td>
<td>1 1/2 cups 2 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactation</td>
<td>5 to 7 pups</td>
<td>2 cups 2 x day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days 57-61</td>
<td>≥ 10 pups</td>
<td>2 cups 2 x day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fecal Scoring Chart

Contacting CCI Vet

In the event that you need to contact the CCI Vet Clinic about a concern regarding the stools of your CCI breeder or puppies, please refer to the fecal scoring chart below. Make note if you observe blood, mucous, or a foreign matter in the stool.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score 1 — Liquid</th>
<th>Score 2 — Soft, without shape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This stool will always resemble liquid and there may or may not be particulate matter present. It will often be defecated in groups of piles instead of one complete unit; mucous is often present. Samples can be difficult to collect and residue is always left on surfaces and gloves. Stool may spread over an area of several inches.</td>
<td>This stool is soft and will have no cylindrical shape; it’s shape is often associated with a “cow patty”. This stool will lose the original shape when collected and will definitely leave residue on surfaces and gloves. This stool may spread over an area of several inches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score 3 — Soft, with shape</th>
<th>Score 4 — Firm: IDEAL STOOL</th>
<th>Score 5 — Extremely Dry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This stool is soft, however there are definite shapes. It will break apart easily and will definitely leave residue on surfaces and gloves. It often loses original shape after collection.</td>
<td>This stool is firm, well shaped, and cylindrical. It does not break apart easily when picked up. This stool may leave residue on surfaces and gloves. This stool is often defecated as one unit. The stool maintains original shape after collection.</td>
<td>This stool is hard and does not stick to surfaces. Stool will roll when pushed. No indentations are made when picked up. Often defecated in groups of individual stools instead of one complete unit. The stool maintains original shape after collection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>