

# Bottle Baby Common Issues

The most common issues (but not typically life-threatening) that pop up when caring for bottle baby puppies include: suckling/urine scalding, crying excessively, bloating, diarrhea, and constipation.

## Suckling and Urine Scalding

When bottle babies have a tendency to suckle on each other, this can result in them peeing on each other and themselves, which can lead to burns on their legs and paws.

### Solutions

- Put oversized stuffed animals in-between pups
- Ensure you're feeding them frequently enough
- Cut up an old sock and place around pup's torso
- Separate pups as last resort
- Apply A&D Diaper Ointment (Zinc-free) on irritated areas

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## Crying excessively

Shriller, high-pitched cries may indicate pain, especially if cries are elicited by touch, which may require medical attention (see When to Be Concerned). Other cries typically indicate pup is hungry, cold, or needs to potty.

### Solutions

- Check heat source
- Reconsider feeding schedule
- Stimulate to potty

## **Bloating**

If the pup's belly feels unusually tight, or as if it is full of air, it may be bloated. This can make a pup feel uncomfortable.

### **Solutions**

- Avoid overfeeding
  - Use anti-colic bottles when feeding to avoid air ingestion
  - Add Infant Gas-x (or generic equivalent) to formula
  - Change formula
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## **Diarrhea**

Ideally, newborn puppies should have slightly soft, brownish to yellowish stools, but they should not be runny, liquid, or foamy.

### **Solutions**

- Avoid overfeeding
  - Add 10% more water to formula
  - Add probiotics
  - Ensure proper cleaning and sanitization of bottles/nipples
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## **Constipation**

Bottle babies can experience constipation as much as they can diarrhea.

### **Solutions**

- Add 25% more water to formula until constipation resolves

