

# Bottle Feeding Common Issues

The most common issues new bottle baby feeders encounter are: getting the puppy to latch, slow feedings, and failure to gain weight (or losing weight) or not eating.

*These are things you should check whenever you're struggling to get a pup to latch, eat, or gain weight:*

**Is the pup warm enough?** Pup should be at least 96° F prior to feeding, gradually warm until it reaches that temperature.

**Is the milk warm enough?** Milk should be 100° F. Reheat in bottle warmer or put bottle in a glass of very hot water. Do not microwave!

**Is the nipple allowing milk to flow out of it?** Check for clogs. Pups with weaker suckles may need the opening widened (use a fork tine to stretch the opening). If the opening is too wide, milk will flood the pup's mouth and cause them to choke or inhale (and aspirate) - you will need to get a new nipple.

**Have you tried a different nipple?** Fussy pups may require some experimentation with nipple size, length, or texture.

**Is it waking up and crying between feedings?** Consider feeding more frequently.

**Have you increased the amount per feeding?** If pup isn't gaining weight but hungry, try feeding it up to 10% more for the next couple of feedings. Pup should gain over a ~24 hour period but may not gain after every feeding.

