

Newborn Puppy Milestones

Here are the expected vitals and milestones of a healthy, newborn puppy for week 1, week 2, and week 3. Deviations from these may be cause for concern.

	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks
Vitals	96° to 98°F temp. ~5-10% weight gain/day	96° to 99°F temp. ~5-10% weight gain/day	100°F temp. ~5-10% weight gain/day
Activity	Energetic when eating, sleeping 90%+ of the time	Energetic when eating, sleeping 90%+ of the time	Mostly sleeping, starts to interact with littermates
Development	Crawling, snuggling with littermates	Attempts to use front legs, sleep twitches, eyes open ~10-14 days old	Starts to stand, walk, and sit; begins to potty on its own; hearing improves, baby teeth emerge
Should not be	Crying often, chilled, or lethargic	Crying often, chilled, or lethargic	Crying often, chilled, or lethargic

Healthy neonates spend the majority of their time sleeping, and when awake, they eat and go potty. This is true for newborn puppies being hand-raised or are nursing on mom. It's key to familiarize yourself with what to see in a healthy newborn so that you can spot signs of a weak or failing newborn more readily.