

Your Role During Puppy Birth

If you are able to be present with your pregnant dog as she goes into labor and delivers her pups, this guide will help you know what to do. In rescue, not every mama dog is as accommodating, so you may need to monitor from afar or leave her be entirely for your safety.

Before She Delivers

The more time you're able to spend with your pregnant foster, the better your bond will be. This will make it easier for you to intervene during delivery as well as to handle her newborn puppies going forward.

Beyond spending time with her and taking care of her, I will sit with her in the whelping box or leave yesterday's clothes in there, so she gets used to my scent in the space.

As She Starts Labor

Her body may start preparing her up to 24 hours before she is in active labor and ready to deliver puppies. Your job is to comfort her, provide easy access to her whelping space and get all your supplies ready.

During Active Labor

Each puppy will be delivered in an amniotic sac, which mama dog should break open, proceed to lick the puppy and chew off the umbilical cord. If your mama dog doesn't do any of these, you will need to do them for her by tearing open the sac, rubbing the puppy dry with a towel, and/or knotting the umbilical cord 1" away from the belly and then cutting off the excess.

