



# Whelping Checklist



## Whelping Environment

- Whelping Box: A draft-free, quiet, and warm area with a cushioned bottom (we suggest a covered egg-crate type mattress topper)
- Liners: Washable whelping box liners, incontinence/ puppy potty pads, or old blankets that can be washed easily
- Heat Source: A heating pad (set to low, under bedding) or a heat lamp to keep puppies warm

## Whelping Tools & Equipment

- Hand Sanitizer: use prior to handling puppies to limit exposure to bacteria
- Nitrile Gloves: To keep hands clean and protect puppies while handling them.
- Cleaning Supplies: Trash bags, paper towels, and disinfectant (e.g., bleach solution)
- Sterilized Scissors & Hemostats: To clamp and cut the umbilical cords
- Bulb Syringe: To clear mucus from puppy airways
- Dental Floss or Umbilical Clamps: For tying off umbilical cords
- Clean Towels: Plenty of clean old towels for drying and stimulating puppies
- Antiseptic: Iodine for dipping umbilical cords to prevent infection
- Digital Thermometer: For monitoring the mother's temperature leading up to labor (drops below 99°F/37°C)
- Digital Kitchen Scale: To weigh puppies, which is vital for monitoring health and growth
- Record Sheet/ Whelping Chart: For noting birth times, weights, and health status
- Emergency Contact: Number for local emergency vet and vet records

## Support for Mom & Puppies

- Puppy Identification: Colored collars or ribbon
- Nutritional Supplements: Calcium gel or syrup for energy and to support labor
- Food/Water: Access to fresh water and puppy food for mom
- Supplements: Milk replacer and a bottle/tube feeder for emergencies

