

# LABRADOR WHELPING INFORMATION

## **SCHEDULE:**

Whelp date - 3 weeks, increase mom's food.

Whelp date - 18 days, worm mom for 3 consecutive days using Panacur Granules.

Whelp date - 2 weeks, start mom on quality pup food. Make food change gradual over a week.

Whelp date + 1 day. Take mom to Vet for exam. Discuss Clean-out shot. Start mom on Pet-Cal.

Whelp date + 3 to 5 days, remove dewclaws from pups.

Whelp date + 1 week, complete & mail or Fax AKC LITTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Whelp date + 2 weeks, trim puppy's toenails, & check every week thereafter.

Whelp date + 3 weeks, start pups on supplemental feed & introduce to whistle.

Whelp date + 5 weeks, wean pups and dry up mom.

Whelp date + 6 weeks, introduce pups to birds & collar.

Whelp date + 6 1/2 weeks, introduce pups to water.

Whelp date + 7 weeks (before pups go home), worm & Physical Exam (shots?).

**DUE TO WHELP DATE:** 63 days after the first breeding. Pups may be 5 days early to 3 days late.

**READY DATE TO GO HOME:** 49 days after the whelp date. If pups are whelped early, count from the Due to Whelp Date. Set this date on the weekend closest to or following the 49th day. Establish order of pick by sex and color (1st black male, 3rd yellow female, etc.) Establish the pick date or pick-up time.

**FEED MOM:** Start to increase food about 3 weeks before the whelping due date. Start a switch to quality puppy food that is suitable for nursing moms about 2 weeks before the whelping date. If mom doesn't want to eat you may need to encourage her using boiled hamburger, cottage cheese, plain yogurt, sour cream, boiled chicken (no bones) or canned dog food. After whelping, free feed mom as much as she will eat. When pups are 2 weeks old, this may be 3 times her normal food.

**WHELPING BOX:** A 45 gallon (28 x 46 x 10) heavy-duty tub (Orchard Supply) works great or you can make a 4' by 4' plywood box with 1" by 6" sides and top rails. Have mom sleep in the box for 10 days before whelping. Have a non-slick surface on the bottom of the box. Indoor/outdoor carpet (Home Depot) with a rubber, not foam, backing is fine. Have at least two carpets so you can clean one while the other is in use.

**WHELPING ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND:** 1. Roll of paper shop towels. 2. Clean wash cloths and hand towels. 3. Clean newspapers. 4. Scissors. 5. Artery forceps. 6. Cotton thread. 7. Note pad & pencil.

**WHELPING ROOM TEMPERATURE:** I like the room to be about 70 degrees for Labradors. If the room is too hot, mom may reject the puppies because she does not want all those little heaters on her. This can lead to puppy rejection, dehydration, and puppy death.

**WHEN TO TELEPHONE THE VET:** 1. Mom goes into hard labor and does not deliver within two hours. 2. Mom passes dark green or bloody fluid before delivery of the first pup. 3. The sac breaks (yellow fluid) and a pup is not delivered within thirty minutes. 4. Over three hours between pups may be a sign of trouble.

**WHELPING:** Pups are usually born at night. Mom may think she needs to go to the toilet. If mom wants to go outside, take her on a leash. Carry a flashlight and a clean hand towel. If the pup cannot breathe because of secretions in the nose, hold the pup in your hands, head down. Support pup's head with your fingers. Swing the pup in a downward arc. Stop the swing abruptly when the pup's nose is pointing down. Try mouth to nose resuscitation.

Put your little finger into the pup's mouth. This often starts sucking and breathing. If pup does not breathe, rub and swing more vigorously. Remember, you cannot harm a dead puppy. After the pups are born, feel mom's abdomen for another pup. If you feel one, gently massage mom's tummy. Take mom to the Veterinarian after the pups are born.

**SUPPLEMENT FOR MOM:** After whelping start mom on Pet-Cal. Mom needs the extra calcium, phosphorus, and vitamin D in a balanced ratio. Give 2 to 4 tablets daily. Continue until you wean the pups.

**SUPPLEMENT FOR PUPPIES:** We start supplemental feeding our pups at about 3 weeks. Remove mom from the litter for an hour before feeding pups. Blow a Gonia whistle when you place the food pan down for the pups. We use a blender on our puppy kibble and mix it with evaporated milk, one can per litter per day for 3 days, with warm water, two feedings a day. After the pups have fed for 15 minutes, let mom in to clean up the food & pups. At about 5 weeks, moisten quality puppy kibble with cool water until pup has permanent teeth (5 months).

**WEAN PUPPIES:** You can tell when mom wants to wean her pups. This is usually about 5 weeks. For 2 or 3 days, let mom be with the puppies' morning & evening for 5 to 10 minutes. Separate mom from puppies. Stop all food and water to mom (unless weather is very hot) for 24 hours. 2nd day, 1/4 normal food, full water. 3rd day 1/2 normal food. 4th day 3/4 normal food. 5th day return to normal feeding.

**INTRODUCE PUPPIES TO BIRDS:** Use a shackled pigeon on a string from a stick. Tempt the pups with the bird. Repeat daily. When all the pups want to chase & carry the bird, just use a shackled pigeon. Later add a tennis ball and paint roller to the training. Put a different colored puppy collar on each pup as a start to lead training.

**INTRODUCE PUPPIES TO WATER:** Air temperature should be near 100 degrees, otherwise hold off until the pups are older. Hypothermia is deadly to puppies. Have the pups run and chase on land until they are very warm. Walk into the water blowing the Gonia whistle and carry a pigeon on a string and stick. Walk into the water until the pups are swimming. This first water experience should be very pleasant for the pups. Dry the pups well with a towel.

**PUPPIES GO TO HOMES:** Provide the buyer with the following: 1. Bill of Sale & Guarantee 2. AKC Dog Registration Application: fill in all pertinent information, sign as litter owner. 3. Provide buyer with shot and worming schedule or records. 4. Complete AKC Litter Record.

This is general information from our experience whelping Labrador Retriever puppies. This information is certainly not appropriate for other breeds of dogs. We are not Veterinarians. We recommend you contact your Veterinarian for specific advice.

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