



Guidelines for fostering a litter

Quick Timeline:

- ✓ Arrival – email info (breed, age, and DOB) to our Intake and Adoption Coordinator
- ✓ 1 Week – weight them daily
- ✓ 2 Weeks – deworm, continue weighing
- ✓ 3 Weeks – continue weighing, introduce formula/goats milk mid-week
- ✓ 4 Weeks – deworm, start weaning process, introduce wet food
- ✓ 5 Weeks – continue weaning, introduce soggy kibble, switch to available status on the portal, prepare vet record sheet, set S/N appointments
- ✓ 6 Weeks – fully complete with weaning, deworm, first set of boosters: DHPPC and Bordatella
- ✓ 7 Weeks – continue solid kibble and separation from mom
- ✓ 10 weeks – DHPPC and Bordatella booster with LHS foster
- ✓ 16 weeks – DHPPC, microchip, Spay/Neuter, first dose of HW prev and rabies at vet

1. Always make sure to get all of the shelter paperwork for the expectant mom and or mom and her puppies. Scan and email paperwork to Amanda Biggs at Contact@LegacyHumaneSociety.org.
2. Once you get everyone home, make sure to give mom and any pups a bath in regular Dawn dish soap. Make sure to apply a thick layer of Dawn, massage in well and leave on mom 10 minutes. In this situation, there is no such thing as “too much” Dawn. The Dawn will smother the fleas and kill them. After you bathe mom, make sure to bathe the pups with Dawn also – avoiding mouth, nose, and eyes. If there is no evidence of fleas on mom you can skip bathing the pups.
3. Make sure mom/pups have an area AWAY from other fosters/personal dogs. Moms are extremely protective of their pups and typically do not allow other dogs near them.
4. Moms need to have food at all times. High fat puppy food – which LHS provides. Before purchasing food and supplies, check with Molly Brodnax or Amanda Biggs about supplies we have on hand. Any purchase made without prior approval will not be reimbursed. If your mom hasn't given birth yet, make sure to start feeding puppy food as soon as you get her home. She will continue to eat puppy food until the pups are weaned, then she can be transitioned to adult food.
5. It is common for new moms to have a lot of diarrhea. New moms will not (typically) want to go outside for the first 24 hours after birth. Do not try to force her to go outside before she is ready. You can supplement her food with pumpkin/rice/chicken to help her have more solid stools. If diarrhea lasts more than 2-3 days, get with your mentor as mom may need medicine.
6. It is ok to deworm expectant moms but we try to avoid giving any meds with pups in utero. If you notice worms in her stool while she is still pregnant, contact your mentor for safe deworming options.



7. If mom is not producing milk after giving birth, you can give her a calcium based food (milk, yogurt, cheese, goat's milk) to stimulate her milk production.
8. Puppies should be listed on portal as soon as they enter the program or as soon as they are born. If they are not old enough for adoption, put them in "Treatment" status. At 5 weeks of age, move them to "Available" status to begin taking applications for pre-adoption. When working on their bios, make sure to indicate the following:
 - Date of Birth
 - Current weight
 - Expected full grown weight (if you are unsure of this, get with your mentor to help with an estimate of this weight)
 - Puppy can go home *"on or after *** date"*
 - Need a home with the time and patience to take care of a baby
 - All included vetting

Puppy care information

9. If the new litter are under 4 weeks of age, you need to weigh them every day (around the same time each day to ensure 24 hours has passed between weighing) and keep track of their weights.
10. Puppies should gain weight every day. If you have a pup or two not consistently gaining weight, make sure they are getting their turns on mom. If two days' pass without weight gain, email your mentor for advice.
11. Puppies need to be dewormed **EVERY TWO WEEKS** beginning at two weeks of age.
12. **If your puppies are on any medication, this will be entered on their profile** under the "Private Notes section" located in the 3rd to section up from the bottom of their profile on the portal (manage.rescuegroups.org).
13. At 3.5 weeks, introduce goat's milk/water mix (50/50 split) to puppies to help prepare them for food and to begin the weaning process. By this time, moms are usually starting to self wean. If you've stored any goat's milk in the fridge, make sure to heat it up slightly before feeding to pups.
14. At 4 weeks mark, start mixing in Nutro Chicken, Rice, and Oatmeal canned food (your mentor will make sure you have some) with the goat's milk mixture. You can start phasing out the goat's milk at this time.
15. During the 4 week time period, make sure to only let mom nurse periodically. She can still sleep with the puppies at night but should generally be spending more time away from the puppies by this time.



16. At 5 weeks, you need to begin mixing the canned food with soggy kibble. Same brand food (Nutro Chicken, Rice, and Oatmeal for puppies). If you have large breed pups, you can use the Large Breed puppy formula. Soak kibble for approximately 10 minutes and the mix in with canned food. Begin phasing out the canned food during this week with the goal of puppies being on kibble by the beginning of the 6 weeks mark.
17. By 5 weeks, make sure that mom is not with the puppies unsupervised. Watch her milk sacks and only let her nurse in order to release the milk. This should be required less frequently with each day that passes.
18. At 6 weeks, the pups should be eating a mix of soggy kibble and hard kibble. Begin phasing out the soggy kibble during this week.
19. **PUPPIES NEED TO BE FULLY WEANED BY 6 WEEKS. If the puppies are still nursing at 6 weeks, the vaccinations will be ineffective due to antibodies the puppies receive through mom's milk. Delaying the vaccinations puts the pups at risk of disease.**
20. Puppies receive vaccinations at 6, 9, and 12 weeks. The 6 & 9 week vaccinations will be given by a LHS volunteer. At 4 months of age they will go to one of our approved vets for rabies, microchip, spay/neuter and single dose of heartworm prevention.

6 Weeks of Age	9 Weeks of Age	12 weeks of age	4 Months of Age
DHLPP Bordatella	DHLPP Bordatella	DHLPP	Spay/Neuter Microchip Rabies First Dose of HW prev

21. When boosters are done, email contact@LegacyHumaneSociety.org with the date the boosters were done and what was done and Amanda will update their medical reports on their profile for the adopters. Below is also a link to video tutorials in case you would like to update/enter your foster's information as well.

Rescue Group Tutorials

- Directory: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFQhDRqqiN>
- Adding an animal to the website: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFQUrEYiLH>
- Viewing applications: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFjvbkqxZQ>
- Replying to applicants within rescue groups: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFjvFFqxtZ>
- Application status and re-assigning: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFjvFxqxuz>
- Creating medical records: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFQlbyqHM5>



- Linking an adoption: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFQUr7YiNI>
- Uploading Intake/Medical Records: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cqXib8UiKa>

Adoption information

22. Puppies can physically go to their homes at 7 weeks of age. If they are adopted before they are able to leave the nest, a \$162.50 non-refundable deposit must be paid via the payment link on our website <https://legacyhumanesociety.org/adoptfoster/adoption-fees/>. The adoption contract and S/N contract will also need to be signed at this time.
<https://legacyhumanesociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Legacy-Humane-Society-Adoption-Contract-Waiver.pdf> & <https://legacyhumanesociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/LHS-Puppy-Packet-Spay-Neuter.pdf>
23. When the pups go to their new families, the \$162.50 balance is due.
24. Our Intake and Adoption Coordinator, Amanda Biggs, will follow up with the adopters for any upcoming boosters or spay/neuter appointments. She will also email them medical records and a vet authorization for surgery once she has confirmed the spay/neuter appointment.
25. When the puppy is adopted, make **sure the adopter signs the contract and spay/neuter contract**. Also, stress to adopter that the **appointments are already set and cannot be changed**. Before the puppies leave your house, make sure to email the adopter what food they are eating to make their transition easier. Additionally, you can provide your adopters the following links:
 - http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html
 - <http://www.examiner.com/article/pets-101-tips-for-comforting-a-crated-crying-puppy>
 - <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/guide/biting-puppy-how-train-puppy-bites>
26. When your puppy gets adopted email pres@LegacyHumaneSociety.org and contact@LegacyHumaneSociety.org the adopter's name and the puppies name(s).
27. Our Intake and Adoption Coordinator can move the puppy to adopted status. Or if you are comfortable updating the bio, here is a video tutorial that shows you step by step instructions on how to link an adoption to each pet's profile: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cFQUr7YiNI>
28. Mail or email the contract(s) to Ann Irish at annirishlhs@gmail.com or 6900 Hickory Hill Cir, Argyle, TX 76226
29. Please make sure to print out the following information sheet and give to adopter.



Foster's name:

Foster's email address:

****Do not take your new puppy out in public, he/she is not fully up-to-date on their vaccinations; therefore, they are extremely susceptible to illnesses carried by other dogs. You can take them to family & friends houses – as long as you know their dogs are up-to-date on their vaccines.**

****Pay special attention to the dates on the vaccination and vet record sheet I am giving you. Your new puppy absolutely HAS TO FOLLOW these dates, they are not negotiable. Your adoption fee includes three sets of vaccinations, their rabies, microchip, HW prevention and spay/neuter. The last set of vaccinations, rabies and S/N needs to be done at the vet listed on your vaccination record (see the directions sheet I have included for you).**

VACCINATIONS:

If your puppy has not had his/her 2nd set of vaccinations, it needs to be done on the week that is listed as the due date, but no sooner. For instance, if the vaccination sheet says they are due for their DHPPC on 1/13/2020, the vaccination cannot be done any sooner than the 13th, but can be done as late as 5 days after the due date.

When your puppy is due for boosters our Intake and Adoption Coordinator will be in touch to schedule accordingly. She can be reached at Contact@LegacyHumaneSociety.org.

Worms:

It is common for puppies to have at least one of the following types of worms: round (look like spaghetti), tape (flat and resemble rice when they dry) or hook (not usually visible in feces but their effects appear in the form of blood spots/streams). They are only transferable to humans or other pets by consuming the infected feces. If you notice any of these, please email your foster to arrange treatment.

****Your new puppy has not been without his/her litter mates, so it will be natural for them to be a “lonely” – put them in a small/enclosed area, if possible drape a sheet or towel over their crate or kennel – that should help the puppy feel more secure. Visit the Helpful Info page on our website www.LegacyHumaneSociety.org for resources related to crate training, over the counter medication suggestions and other helpful resources.**

**** After your puppy has received his/her rabies vaccination, take the certificate to your city shelter/offices to register your puppy. Registered dogs are more likely to be returned to the owner in the event they escape or are lost. Put the odds in the dogs favor and register your pets. Also, at the time of their spay/neuter, you will receive information on their microchip. Please make sure to register your new puppy's microchip!**

Heartworm Prevention:

Take the vaccination sheet to your vet (if you chose not to purchase heartworm protection from our vet on the date of your puppy's surgery) before the below date to purchase Heartworm prevention. Or, it can be purchased at the time of the puppy's alteration appointment.

Next dose of Heartworm prevention due: _____

Most importantly, enjoy and love your new family member! If you ever have any questions, please contact me!