

Puppy Intensive Care Assessment Form									
Date:									
Question	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Description	What to do!	
1	Is the puppy warm to the touch?						A sick puppy will often have a cold mouth even if he feels warm otherwise. Rectal temp should be 95°. If the pup's core temperature is 70° the only way to check he is still alive is to drop the pup onto its feet from about six inches away from a heated soft surface.	Warm pup slowly! Use Hot Box or against your own skin. Hydrate! A chilled pup is a dehydrated pup. Do NOT Feed a cold puppy! It will take a half hour to warm up a chilled pup.	
2	Does the pup have a suck reflex?						A well puppy will try to suck your finger if you place it in his mouth.		
3	Does the pup have good muscle tone?						Pull out his little legs. Does he pull them right back again?		
4	Is the pup breathing with his mouth open and gasping or is his mouth closed?						Gasping indicates the need for Oxygen NOW!		
5	Does the pup appear dehydrated?						When you pull the skin up on the back of his neck does it stay there (dehydrated) or does it spring back (normal) quickly?	A dehydrated pup is also a hypoglycaemic pup. Sub-Q warm Ringer's Lactate and give honey on the tongue. Warm formula and tube feed the pup a warm meal.	
6	Is the pups urine dark yellow?						Dark urine indicates dehydration. Urine should be a light straw color.		
7	Is the pup crying for more than fifteen minutes?						A healthy pup would tire out by then. The cry of a sick pup will have a different tone, often higher pitched. Relieve gas by administering Mylicon Drops® on the pup's tongue.		
8	Is the pup off by himself and away from Mom and littermates?						If the same pup is away from Mom and littermates often it is time to check for signs of illness. (cold and/or dehydrated)		
9	Is the puppy lying quietly perfectly still?						A healthy pup will be in constant motion with little twitches all the time.		
10	Does the umbilical cord site look infected?						The umbilical cord should dry up and fall off within a day or two. Red, swelling or signs of discharge may mean an infection.		
11	Is there stool caked around the puppy's rectal area?						Caked stool indicates that he pup may have diarrhoea or that Mom has stopped cleaning him.		
12	Are the pup's eyelids clean?						A pup with eyes open at 3-4 days needs to be watched. They can develop dry eye. Watch also for signs of discharge or infection.		
13	Are there any signs of infection in other areas?						Redness, discharge, swelling or foul odour are indications of infection. Check umbilical cords, and dew claws.		
14	Are the pup's lips clean and dry?						Wet lips either drool or bubbly can indicate that the pup is sick.		
15	Is the pup's respiration audible?						If you can hear the pup breathe and there are any other signs of illness call the Vet immediately. Normal respirations for a newborn pup are 8-18 and for the first two weeks it is 15-35.	Count respirations per minute by counting breathes as the pups chest rises and falls for 10 seconds and then multiply by 6.	
<b>Puppy's Vital Signs:</b>									
	Pup's temperature:						Newborn to two weeks normal is 94° -96°: From two - three weeks normal is 97° -99°: Adult normal is 101° - 102°		
	Pup's respiration rate:						Normal respirations for a newborn pup are 8-18 and for the first two weeks it is 15-35.		
	Pup's hydration status:								
	Color of pup's urine:						Straw colour is normal. Dark urine indicates dehydration.		
	Pup's weight and weight loss/gain:						Weight loss indicates hypoglycaemia		
	Breath sounds:						Loud breathe sounds can indicate pneumonia or aspiration.		
	<b>NOTES:</b>								