



BRIARLEA

bouvier

Just Born! Weeks 1 and 2

The neonatal period



Just Born Puppies

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Mama Dog

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This is the beginning of the most important period of your puppy's life. While your puppy's brain is very immature at this time, there are many things I will be doing to help prepare him for the future!

Once the puppies are settled in, dried off, nursing and rested, we begin the Early Neurological Stimulation you may have read about on our website. According to EEGs done on puppies, they mature faster if they undergo very mild stressors early in life. Puppies who are mildly stressed are found to be better problem solvers and to be better at handling stress as adults. There is some evidence that early stressing of very young puppies may possibly increase resistance to disease according to Bruce Fogle DVM.

Early Neurological Stimulation was found to Improve cardio-vascular performance (heart rate) with stronger heart beats, stronger adrenal glands, greater tolerance to stress and greater resistance to disease. It takes only a few minutes per puppy and allows us also to focus on each individual, doing a quick visual and tactile check each day separate from our regular cleaning and handling.

1. Tactile stimulation

Holding the pup in one hand, the handler gently stimulates (tickles) the pup between the toes on any one foot using a Q-tip. It is not necessary to see that the pup is feeling the tickle. Time of stimulation 3 - 5 seconds.

2. Head held erect

Using both hands, the pup is held perpendicular to the ground, (straight up), so that its head is directly above its tail. This is an upwards position. Time of stimulation 3 - 5 seconds

3. Head pointed down

Holding the pup firmly with both hands the head is reversed and is pointed downward so that it is pointing towards the ground. Time of stimulation 3 - 5 seconds

Briarlea Bouviers neonates



Day old Bouvier puppies

Bouv Puppy Checklist:

Is the puppy:

- Nursing
- Warm to the touch
- Quiet
- Laying with the rest of the litter

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Day old Bouvier puppies can vary in weight from teeny to hefty but generally we find that our puppies average around 10 - 14 ounces. While often a puppy will lose weight the first day, almost invariably they will begin to gain on day 2. It's important to remember that the weights on baby puppies do not necessarily indicate the ultimate weight of the adult. We like to see very shiny coats on our puppies, and a puppy who seems weighty rather than shelly. We will remove dewclaws and tails when the puppies are 2 days old.

4. Supine position

Hold the pup so that its back is resting in the palm of both hands with its muzzle facing the ceiling. The pup while on its back is allowed to sleep struggle. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds.

5. Thermal stimulation

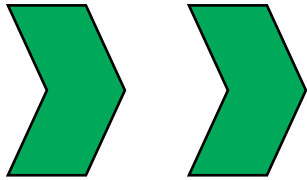
Use a damp towel that has been cooled in a refrigerator for at least five minutes. Place the pup on the towel, feet down. Do not restrain it from moving. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds.

In tests of learning, stimulated pups were found to be more active and were more exploratory than their non-stimulated

littermates over which they were dominant in competitive situations.

Secondary effects were also noted regarding test performance. In simple problem solving tests using detours in a maze, the non-stimulated pups became extremely aroused, whined a great deal, and made many errors. Their stimulated littermates were less disturbed or upset by test conditions and when comparisons were made, the stimulated littermates were more calm in the test environment, made fewer errors and gave only an occasional distress when stressed.

Continued....



Imprinting!

All this early handling involves me in the imprinting process, an important element in puppy development and one which produces puppies that are comfortable around humans. By the time they're 3 weeks old they'll be so used to the regular handling that they'll congregate in the direction of people who enter the room. Tough work but someone's got to do it!

What you can do!

This is an excellent time to make trips, visits, and appointments that you may not have time for in another 8 weeks! If you haven't already, it's a good time to visit local training classes to see which one will be a comfortable fit for you and your new Bouvier puppy. You might also make arrangements with a trainer and groomer who will take the time to start your puppy!

Some of our favorite books are available from DogWise; there is a link on the NAWBA website (www.nawba.biz) where you can order books about Bouviers, training, grooming, and all things Dog! Now's a good time to join the North American Working Bouvier Association as well as the American Bouvier Club! Websites: www.nawba.net and www.bouvier.org.



The Mama Dog



Change is inevitable....

We usually clipper the coats from our pregnant Moms so that the hair doesn't become matted with puppy drool and other bits of flotsam and jetsam that comes with puppy rearing. The coat is usually shed immediately after whelping whether we clipper it or not (especially the undercoat!) Cutting it down paves the way for a new, crisp and clean coat to come in.

Depending on the individual dog, some Bouvier moms maintain good weight during their pregnancy and continue to maintain it while nursing. Others blow their coats so that they look bald or lose weight while nursing. We feel that these normal variations are best managed by close observation and adjusting the lifestyle of the particular Bouvier to keep her healthy.

The Bouvier Mom needs to be mentally and emotionally sound to be a good mother to her pups. The puppies get bio feedback from her which influences their emotional development. We spend extra time with her now, making sure she gets groomed and exercise. We're sensitive to her desires for privacy and rest as well as the needs of her puppies.

