FREE PRINTABLE · BIRTH PREP CHECKLIST

Whelping Prep Checklist

Gather everything by week 7 of pregnancy (about day 45) so she can settle into her whelping box.

Gather these supplies

- [ ] Whelping box in a quiet, warm spot
- [ ] Clean, dry towels and plenty of paper towels
- [ ] Infant nasal bulb syringe
- [ ] Digital thermometer
- [ ] Unwaxed dental floss and clean scissors (to tie cords if needed)
- [ ] Safe heat source — heat lamp or pad (puppies must be able to move away)
- [ ] Kitchen scale that weighs in grams or ounces
- [ ] Disposable gloves and rubbish bags
- [ ] Coloured collars or yarn to tell puppies apart
- [ ] Puppy milk replacer and bottle (backup only)
- [ ] Pen, weight tracker and this checklist
- [ ] Your vet's number and the nearest emergency clinic

Notes

Get ready timeline

Day 28–30	Vet check / ultrasound to confirm pregnancy
Week 7	Set up the whelping box so she gets used to it
Day 55+	X-ray to count the puppies
Last week	Take her rectal temperature once a day
~99 °F	Temperature drop: labour usually within about a day

Call your vet straight away if...

- Green or black discharge before the first puppy
- Strong contractions for an hour with no puppy
- 45–60 minutes between puppies
- Fewer placentas than puppies
- She seems weak or unwell at any point
- She passes day 72 from breeding with no labour

MY VET _____ PHONE _____

AFTER-HOURS / EMERGENCY _____ DUE DATE _____