

A FADING PUPPY INTERVENTION GUIDE by Barb Thornberry

Let me preface my article by saying I am not a Veterinarian. I am going to share what my protocol is for a fading puppy. I am not meaning to overstep your Veterinarians advice. It's truly best if you consult with a Veterinarian. I'm merely sharing what works for me. I assume no liability for injury to you or your pet incurred by following these descriptions or procedures.

Immediate intervention is of the utmost importance with a Fading puppy. Typically (but not always) you find the puppy pushed away from the litter (Mama knows before we do). The puppy is depressed, lethargic and cold. Although they could have a fever too. The puppy has little or no suckle reflex and isn't eating, and most likely is dehydrated. Action must be taken STAT. A puppy can die in the amount of time you're placed on hold waiting for advice from someone. Please be proactive. It could save your puppies life.

1. **WARNING:** Before any intervention you must have an accurate rectal temperature on your puppy. This is not a time to guess or "he feels warm enough". You must take a rectal temperature. The puppy's rectum is small, but I promise a lubed thermometer will fit. At birth and for the first week his body (rectal) temperature should fall between 96° and 99°F.

Newborn puppies can't generate their own body heat until they develop the shiver reflex at around two and half weeks.

Despite our instinct of wanting to immediately feed a puppy in trouble, warmth is far more critical than food. Cold puppies can't nurse or digest food. Their heart rates drop, and the circulatory and respiratory systems collapse. They don't last long.

But, you don't want to warm a cold puppy too quickly either because that, too, can be fatal. The safest way to warm him is old school—using your own body heat. I would suggest putting the puppy in your bra. Don't rush it; warming him too quickly could send him into shock. Check him/her in an hour and hopefully his temperature is up. If he's still not quite warm enough put him back in your bra. Once his temperature is above 96 Fahrenheit the first week and 98 the second week, Then it's safe to proceed to the next steps. Continue to monitor temp. You can also use hand towels warmed in your dryer to help warm up puppy. With the puppy in your bra, throw a warmed towel over puppy and over your shoulder. Keep dryer running and change out towel when too cool.

I also take a compromised baby away from the litter until he turns a corner. I put him in an incubator or if not an incubator, a box to keep his temperature regulated. If you warm up the puppy and put it back in with the litter, it is very likely the puppy will be pushed aside again and get cold again. This time you may not get him back.

A good set up would be a 12 x 12 box. A heating pad on LOW, UNDERNEATH the box not in it. I have 6-8" of padding between puppy and heat pad. You DON'T want to dehydrate the puppy from TOO much heat now. Here is an example of a box. You'll notice the cardboard squares. I tuck one in on each side after I cover the puppy so it can't crawl over the sides of the box and topple to the floor.



I will also use a warmer sold in the cat section of a store. They are called PetStages Kitty Cuddle Pal. They are warmed in the microwave.

I like these in the box with the puppy in one corner, because it's small enough that the puppy can crawl away if too hot. Still use caution. These can get really hot. You'll have to experiment with your microwave to determine how long to heat it.



It is very important to monitor the boxes temperature. A thermometer can be a very useful tool also to help maintain the boxes temperature. Ideally the boxes temperature should be around 80-85 degrees for a newborn pup, UNLESS the fading is from Canine Herpes Virus. And the humidity between 50-65%. This is very difficult to do without an incubator. A humidifier/vaporizer in the background can help keep the humidity up.

Canine Herpes Virus rectal temps for a pup need to be kept at 99 Fahrenheit. So the ambient room temperature is also 99 degrees Fahrenheit. At those high temps super, super close observation of the puppy at ALL TIMES is a must. Dehydration will set in fast, and you'll have to sub-Q fluids. Canine Herpes Virus is another article however.

For those with incubators, I cut a hole in the lid of a small (approx. 3" x 3") Tupperware/plastic container. I put a folded up a wash cloth or sponge in this container and saturate/cover with water. Then the water/sponge filled container goes safely under the blankets in the incubator. This aids in keeping humidity up in the incubator.



I'll keep the puppy in the box until I'm positive the pup is on the road to recovery. It's usually 48 – 72 hours, but I've had a few in the box much longer. I will of course take the puppy out of box to nurse from Mama every 2 hours. This is round the clock.

2. Raising the puppies blood sugar level

After the puppy is warmed I mix together 2cc's Karo Syrup (UK golden syrup) with 2cc's liver water (see liver water recipe below)



Then I start dabbing and letting them suckle off finger



I start with this mixture because Blood Sugars in puppies (especially those smaller than 3 lbs.) are more likely to plummet when they start to fade. A puppy with low blood sugar will become weak, listless and in severe instances, the puppy may even seizure. Glucose is necessary for the brain tissue and muscles to function.

*The Karo Syrup provides a boost in glucose

*The Beef Liver water provides nutrients but is also believed to be a sugar stabilizer to the puppies.

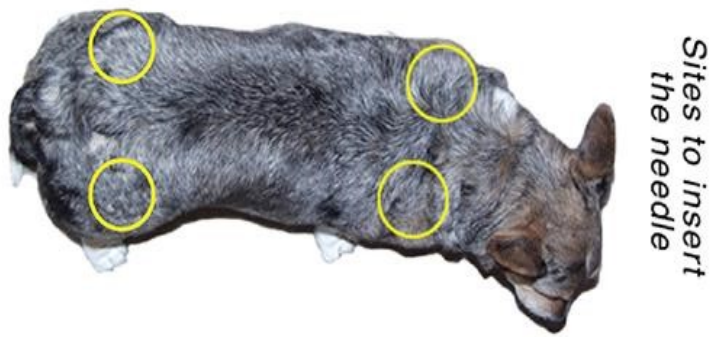
3. Next I hydrate the puppy with warm fluids.

My first choice for hydration is delivering the fluids subcutaneously. The dosage for subcutaneous administration (under the skin but not into muscle) is 5-10 mls per pound body weight. If in doubt about the dosage, google it. The easiest place to administer is at the shoulder blades. To do this you make a tent like in the picture below.



In the lifted up part, or the pocket you see in the picture, is where you'll put the fluids.

Here are the easiest areas to make your tent and administer fluids to your puppy.



DON'T BE AFRAID OF GIVING FLUIDS. Even on a "healthy puppy day", subcutaneous fluids are a GOOD THING and can only be a benefit. Just like when you and I drink a glass of water, we feel better. These fluids do the same thing. Some breeders are so fearful of SQF's, most likely it's the fear of hurting the pup or doing it wrong.

Just remember: WARM FLUIDS ARE YOUR PUPPIES BEST SHOT AT SURVIVAL. More than anything else, hydration (in the form of a sterile lactated ringer solution or a .9% sodium chloride solution, depending on pups age, is the SINGLE most IMPORTANT thing we can do, to increase the puppy's chance for survival. If you haven't performed this procedure before, watching these videos on You Tube will help build your confidence. If the puppy is 3 days or less, I'd use a bag of Sodium Chloride 0.9%, rather than the lactated ringer solution

This first one shows you how to prepare the bag and drip set line:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a079WPUYS5Y>

Here are a couple demonstrating how to administer Sub Q fluids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azYzKlzwz-l>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tiFkrgnpfk>

There are videos on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com>) for almost everything. There are videos showing how to tube feed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2sdSSmbDCw>

Videos to on how to sponge feed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsiSyU5riCl>

Videos for vaccinations, anal glands, etc. Please watch more than 1 video demonstrating the different ways to administer SQF's. Type in the search bar: How to administer subcutaneous fluids to a puppy

Heaven forbid you ever find yourself in a situation with a fading puppy, believe it or not you probably DON'T have time to think "how do I do all that stuff again"? Your puppy is crashing NOW, so watch and prepare beforehand. Order supplies such as syringes, needles, the lactate ringers, extenders or drip sets beforehand. At the end of this article, I'll have a supply list.

If you even suspect your puppy isn't feeling well, give fluids. Don't wait. If you're wondering "hmm, I wonder if I should give fluids" YOU SHOULD. Do it now and give them often for the first 24 hours. It will only help.

Giving SQF's can be nerve wracking. I still feel inadequate when I do it. I know the puppy doesn't like it because many times they'll scream. Please don't give up. I wish this procedure wasn't necessary, but it is.

I give SQF 3 times a day until the puppy can take in enough liquids on their own, whether it be from Mama, the bottle or the sponge. It usually takes about 48 hours.

I hope by sharing how inadequate I STILL feel when giving fluids, and the mistakes I make, it will give you confidence that if I can do it, you can do it too!

Here goes:

- *I sometimes make the puppy cry (a lot!)
- *I sometimes have to poke the puppy 2-3 times. (Always switch out needles. They get dull fast)
- *Sometimes I think I'm under the skin but I've actually poked through to the other side of the tent I've made. I watch as all the fluids run down the other side of the puppy, onto the floor.
- *Sometimes my poke causes blood to leak.
- *Sometimes I get air underneath the skin. Afterwards when I touch that area I hear a crackling sound.

This all goes away. You're not doing going to kill your puppy if you're not perfect at it. If you don't try you might!

LACTATED RINGERS or .9 Sodium Chloride Solution



So let's talk about subcutaneous fluids or also known as Lactated Ringers. Where can you get them? Many Veterinarians know the importance of having lifesaving supplies on hand and will sell you them. If no, there are a few online sources where you can buy them without a prescription. I'll share at the end of this article.

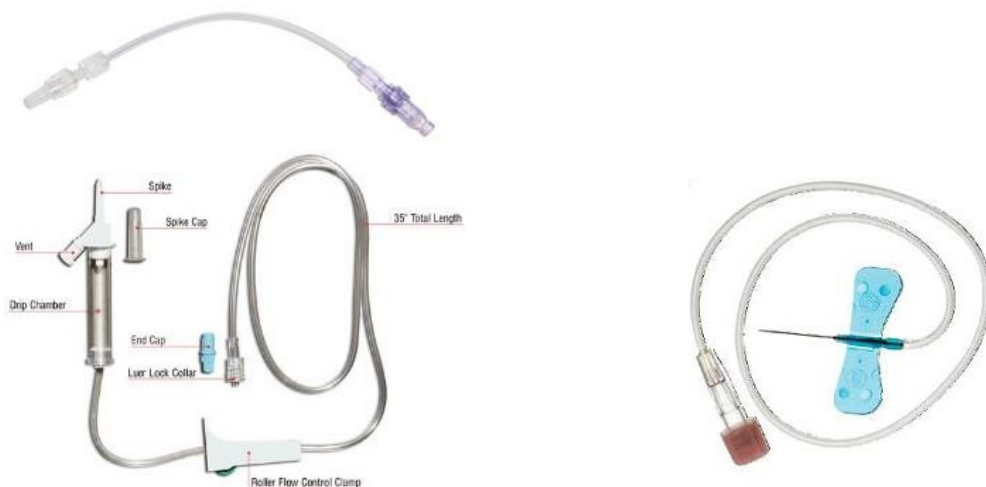
Always WARM the fluids to body temperature. I find 45 seconds in my microwave, for a full bag (1000cc's) is about right.

You'll need your needles, and syringes. You may want to order an extension kit and/or a solution drip set (see below) (I really like extension butterfly kits best).

How much fluid do we give? We give enough to satisfy any current dehydration debt and to provide a cushion for an hour or two in the future. How much is that? It is enough so that when we refill the syringe with LRS the last 10 cc injection we gave hasn't already disappeared. And it WILL disappear, just that FAST, if the puppy is already dehydrated.

So first, we need to satisfy the back log, and then we put in some more. We want to raise a good sized lump - say the size of the pups head, or dosage for the ringer is generally 5 -10 ml per pound.

We want that lump to stay there a while. If it does, you won't have to worry about fluid replacement for some hours. As time goes by, the fluids in this reservoir will be absorbed and the lump will disappear. Also, gravity will take a hand in removing the lump, shifting any spare fluids down around the neck.



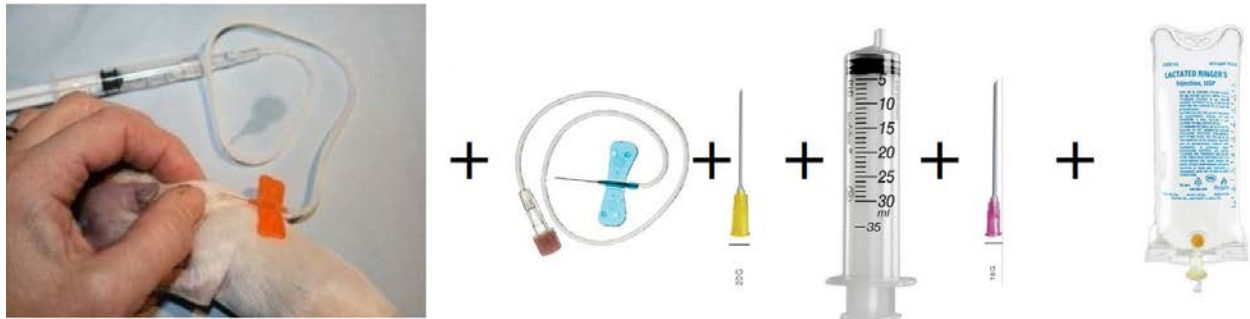
Remember: Keep ringer, needles and syringes sterile. You'll need to change the needle every session (use a separate needle to draw fluids from bag). Change needles after 1-2 pokes. They dull fast. And never use a ringer that is cloudy. Once the ringers are opened I use them for up to 3 days, then discard.

My procedure is as follows: I use the LARGER, 18 gauge needle, to draw the fluid from the bag into a 30cc syringe, because it's faster. When I insert 18 gauge into the LRS, I LEAVE the needle in bag, until finished with this session. I only remove the 30cc syringe. But now I'm replacing the larger, faster 18 gauge needle with the smaller, and slower 20 gauge needle. We change needles, because we want the most comfortable needle for the puppy, yet big enough to administer fluids. THEN I administer to puppy the fluids.

RECAP:

- I use an 18 Gauge to draw fluids, then change needle to
- 20 Gauge to administer to puppy. Both needles are $\frac{3}{4}$ -1" long They'll read something like this:
Monoject (that's the brand), 20G x 1 or
18G x $\frac{3}{4}$ "
- I buy by the box, but individually I'd have at least 10 or more of each size on hand.
- Have a number of different size syringes on hand also. The bigger the puppy the more fluids. Again I order by the box so I never run out. Just be sure and figure worst case scenario, then you'll have enough to get you through.

Order a few each 3cc, 12cc, 20cc, 30cc and 60cc. You'll also use them for dispensing foods and other things too. Delegate which ones for food, and keep separate from your sterile, wrapped needles you'll be using for fluids.



Again the dosage for the lactated ringer solution is generally 5 -10 ml per pound. Same for .9 sodium chloride solution. What you want is a nice size lump of fluid. About the size of the puppy's head.

Here is an article with pictures showing how to handle the bag and needles.

http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/cliented/dog_fluids.aspx

A second method for hydration is rectally.

Puppies will die easily from dehydration, so "you do what you have to do". If you can't or won't do subcutaneous fluids then rectally is your option.

VERY IMPORTANT so I'm mentioning first...NEVER GIVE A PLAIN WATER ENEMA. That will actually dehydrate the puppy. The **ENEMA HAS TO CONTAIN ELECTROLYTES**.

Electrolyte formulas combine salts and sugars to replace potassium, phosphorus, bicarbonate, chloride, sodium and calcium. You can use any natural sugar you have on hand, such as honey, agave syrup, fructose or table sugar. Sea salt and baking soda are the two most common salts called for in electrolyte recipes.

Here is a popular electrolyte solution recommended by Country vet Kaetheryn Walker:

- * 1 quart of purified water
- * 1 tablespoon of sugar
- * 1 teaspoon of salt.

- * 1 quart purified or natural spring water
- * 2-4 teaspoons raw, unprocessed sugar, or 1-2 teaspoons of powdered fruit sugar (fructose)
- * 1 teaspoon Himalayan or Celtic sea salt
- * 1 teaspoon of Salt Substitute (Potassium Chloride)

Dr. Oz recommends a simple, natural electrolyte recipe that includes

- * 1 liter of water
- * 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda
- * 2 tablespoons of agave nectar
- * 1/2 tablespoon of sea salt

Combine all ingredients in a water bottle and slowly give your dog the amount recommended by the veterinarian.

WARNINGS DO NOT use alternative sweeteners such as aspartame, sucralose or stevia, as they will not supply the sugars needed to balance canine electrolytes. Commercial products designed for humans may contain the sweetener xylitol, which can cause poisoning, seizures and death in dogs.

The fluid MUST have electrolytes! NEVER EVER give a straight water enema. Again, the reason for this is because a straight water enema will only dehydrate your dog further.

Supplies you will need to give fluids rectally”

1. Dosing Syringe (Not the super huge one’s, but one you can plunge with one hand)



You want your other hand free to either hold the tail, or hold the puppy.

You’ll need latex free rubber gloves, and a lubricant.

Dose: Under 3 lbs. 1-2 tsp.

4 - 10 lbs. 4 tsp.

If the puppy has a bowel movement right afterwards (within 3 minutes) repeat the procedure. If the fluid stays in longer than 3 minutes wait an hour and repeat.

Now the procedure: If he/she is dehydrated, you will want to give him an enema EVERY HOUR, until he is hydrated again.

Step 1: Prepare the electrolyte fluid by warming it on stove top or microwave to a warm BUT NOT HOT temperature. Like a baby bottle temperature. Draw the fluid up with the syringe.

Step 2: Lube tip with KY, Vaseline, or similar. Your puppy can be laying down on his/her side with their SPINE STRAIGHT. Usually they are not feeling well enough to struggle and will just lay there completely compliant. Insert syringe tip 1/2”-1” into the rectum.

Step 3: SLOWLY plunge the contents inside the puppy. For a puppy weighing 1lb, it should take you 2-3 minutes. For a larger puppy, it should take from 3-5 minutes. The goal is to SLOWLY administer the fluid.

While your inserting the fluids, if any leaks back out, stop and make sure the spine is still straight make sure the tip is still inserted 1/2" to 1" in.

Step 4: When done hold the buttocks together for at least two minutes and then release the puppy.

After a few minutes the puppy may get up and expel all that you just dosed. Administer again if this happens.

It is not recommended that you do enemas for more than a 24 hour period but that is more like a guide than a rule. If your puppy just isn't taking in the fluid you will need another source of hydration for your puppy (you'll probably need to find a way to do subcutaneous fluids).

4. FEEDING SCHEDULE

Fading or sick puppies need to be fed every 2-2½ hours ROUND THE CLOCK. How you deliver the food is a personal choice. There are pro's and con's to all feeding methods.

The puppies at a very young age are very easy to aspirate. I think my least favorite method for newborns is a syringe, followed by a bottle. When the puppy is well a bottle may be fine. Even tube feeding has its own risks. Over all I think I like the sponge method best if the puppy can suckle. If the puppy can't suckle tube feeding is your only option.

I feed the puppy in the box that it lives. I set the entire box on my lap and with the aid of some additional hand towels for the puppy to set up on (they like to knead when they eat) this is how I feed. It's hard to see in my picture but I am using the sponge. I use my left hand to control the puppy. The sponge has been cut in advance to fit the puppy's mouth. First I dunk the sponge in the formula with my right hand and offer it to the puppy. Hopefully the puppy latches on and you can begin to keep the sponge full of formula. If the puppy doesn't get it the first time or lets go, don't give up. It's easy to get frustrated because this procedure can feel awkward at first. Keep trying. The tricky part for me is right when the puppy latches on, I switch hands. With the sponge in the puppy's mouth I control not only the puppy with my left hand, but now I also hold the sponge in place with my left hand, freeing up my right hand to control the plunger.

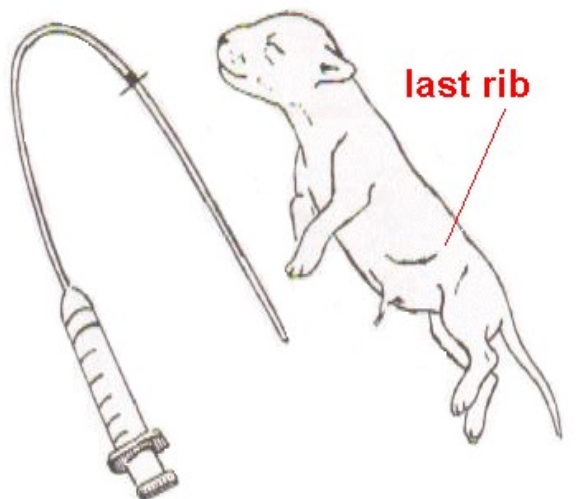
With my right hand, as the baby suckles I slowly pushed the plunger on the syringe to keep the sponge full. I never hold the baby upside down to feed, nor do I point the plunger directly toward the nose or mouth. I release the formula sideways onto the sponge, so the formula lands away from the nose and mouth. At all times I'm cautious to keep the puppy's nose higher than the formula. The point of the syringe that falls on the sponge is LOWER than the puppy's nose at all times. I don't want the puppy to aspirate.



This second picture is from the internet. You hold the sponge whichever way is easiest for you. Just try and keep fluids lower than nose to avoid aspiration.

Hopefully you can see from my picture that I use the additional hand towels as a ridge for the puppy to hang over and kneed. Once you get the hang of it it's not difficult. Once you can keep the puppy latched on, your home free. Practice is all. Don't get frustrated. Some of the bedding in the box may be wet from the feeding. You'll need to change it before you tuck the baby back in.

If the puppy can't suckle your only option is tube feeding. This picture is a only a guide for you. If you've never tube fed, I encourage you to have your mentor help you the first time.



You'll need to set your alarm at night. Every 2-2 1/2 hours you feed .5mls (1/2 cc) of formula for every ounce of body weight. It is crucial they don't miss a meal. With a healthy puppy you don't want to exceed 1ml per ounce of body weight every 4 hours. But, with a newborn or fading puppy, you feed 1/2 as much twice as often. I don't skip a beat with this schedule! The key to saving these guys is DETERMINATION! Even if you're dead tired, you have to get up in the middle of the night. You can sleep later. Keep to the schedule.

Here's a look at the schedule I keep. It should give a better understanding:

I have just finished feeding the puppy (it takes about 1/2 hour to feed using sponge method). It's now 11:00pm. I set my alarm for 1:00am. I feed until 1:30. I set my alarm for 3:30. I feed until 4:00. I set my alarm for 6:00, and so on.

There are many fading puppy formulas. Personally I like Esbilac Milk Replacer. Newborns especially, can sometimes do poorly on the below formula. That's just my experience. Whichever recipe you use, please don't use cow's milk. Canned goat's milk is preferred. And do not dilute! Also, never use powdered milk or milk replacer, especially if tube feeding. The powder clumps. An unknown clump can aspirate them. Please use a liquid milk replacer.

FADING PUPPY FORMULA

- *Canned Goats Milk-Walmart carries this
- *2 Tablespoons Karo syrup (light or dark)
- *3 Tablespoons Liver Water (See instructions below)
- *2 egg yolks
- *1/2 cup WHOLEFAT Vanilla or Plain Yogurt
- *1/2 Cup REAL mayonnaise (NOT low-fat)
- *2 cc's liquid vitamins (either pet or baby vitamins okay)

Mix all together and blend in blender. Pour amount needed for feeding and refrigerate or freeze the rest. Formula is usually good for 3-4 days in the refrigerator.



Liver Water:

Place a pound of raw beef or calve liver in a sauce pan. Add enough water to just cover (1-1 ½ cups). Gently boil the liver and water until the liver is no longer bloody. Remove from heat.

Remove liver from the water. Strain the remaining liver water several times through either a coffee filter or fine mesh strainer. The liver water is ready for use. It can also be frozen in ice cube trays and saved for future use.

Here is another recipe some swear by for a neonate that is only a few days old:

5% Glucose Syrup

3-4 drops liver water

1 teaspoon white corn syrup

4 tbsp. boiled water

A few grains of salt

A few grains of salt substitute

Administer .5mls (1/2cc) of the above electrolyte formula to puppy as a supplement between feedings.

Keeping to this feeding schedule is 50% of my success. It's so easy to stretch it to 3 ½ -4 hours between feedings because I'm tired. But I don't. Or quit this vigil too early because I don't feel like doing it anymore. I just don't.

5. Antibiotics

Antibiotics are a personal choice when it comes to a fading puppy. I personally give them prophylactically, immediately, without hesitating, along with a probiotic at first sign of trouble. My thinking is SOMETHING is making that puppy fade. I don't have time to "wait and see" if they need an antibiotic. By that time it's too late.

You have to make that decision. It's always best to use antibiotics prescribed by a veterinarian, but in a pinch look in your medicine cabinet. Or you can get fish antibiotics at your local feed store without a prescription. They are the same antibiotics we use. You have to ask for them. They are usually behind the counter. They can be ordered Online also. Generally safe for puppies that we have in our medicine cabinet are cephalexin or amoxicillin.

I'd suggest looking up the dose NOW and writing it in the spaces below so you're not scrambling around if you have a puppy crashing. The dose can be easily found online.

Cephalexin dose for dog/puppy per pound _____ (I give 10 to 15 mg per pound every 8 to 12 hours orally for puppies). I actually just make a lump about the size of his head. Again, I'm not a Vet and encourage you to verify the dose).

Amoxicillin dose for dog/puppy per pound _____ (I give 5-10mg/pound every 12 hours) I encourage you to verify this.



Fish Flex is Cephalexin / Fish Mox is Amoxicillin

The antibiotics will most likely be capsules. Here's what I do with the capsules because obviously 1 capsule is too much for a neonate.

After I've know the dose I open the capsule and pour its content on a plate. If the dose is 10-15mg's per pound every 8 hours and my capsule is 250 mgs, I divide the capsule down. I divide in 1/2. Then I divide in 1/2 again and again. For a capsule that's 250 mg I should end up with either 25 equal piles of 10mg each or 17 piles of 15mg.

If my puppy weighs 2 pounds, he gets 2 piles. Make sense?

Then I dab my finger in karo syrup and then dab in the pre-measured antibiotic dose. With my other hand, I gently open pups mouth wide enough to insert the karo/antibiotic mixture on roof of mouth. Puppy will suckle the mxture off finger.

I use the larger dose because I lose a lot of the dose administering it. The puppy spits it out or it dribbles out the sides of their mouth. I figure if I try and administer the larger dose, with the overspill the smaller dose will make it too their stomach.

Messy? Yes! Primitive? Yes! But it works in a pinch.

UPDATE 06/2016: with a sick puppy I highly recommend getting the puppy a convenia antibiotic shot from your Vet. Cephalexin (Fishflex) or Amoxicillan (Fishmox) still works in the absence of Convenia, but if possible get Convenia. It's a miracle drug. One shot lasts sometimes 2 weeks

Dosing Chart

Convenia® (cefovecin sodium)

- Label dose for dogs and cats = 3.6 mg/lb (8 mg/kg or 0.045 mL/lb) subcutaneously
- Reconstituted concentration = 80 mg/mL
- Reconstitute with 10 mL of sterile water for injection, USP
- Use within 56 days after reconstitution
- Always refrigerate in original carton to protect from light
- Minimum pet age for use is 4 months

As with other cephalosporins, CONVENIA will naturally turn amber over time after reconstitution. The color change has no impact on safety or efficacy, provided CONVENIA is kept under proper storage conditions.



Examples of color change after the vial has been broached and reconstituted.

CONVENIA Dosing Chart at 3.6 mg/lb (8 mg/kg or 0.045 mL/lb)

Weight of Animal	Volume of CONVENIA
5 lb	0.23 mL
10 lb	0.45 mL
15 lb	0.67 mL
20 lb	0.90 mL
40 lb	1.80 mL
60 lb	2.70 mL
80 lb	3.60 mL
100 lb	4.50 mL

Cefovecin

Cefovecin is an antibiotic of the cephalosporin class, licensed for the treatment of skin infections in cats and dogs. It is marketed by Zoetis under the trade name Convenia.

Molar mass: 453.49 g/mol



Probiotics

When you give antibiotics to puppies, they will need a probiotic to replace the beneficial bacteria the antibiotic is killing.

Sometimes taking an antibiotic can cause diarrhea by reducing the number of good microorganisms in the puppy's gut. Then, bacteria that normally will not give the puppy any trouble can grow out of control. There is also evidence that taking probiotics when you first give an antibiotic may help prevent antibiotic-related diarrhea in the first place.

You DON'T want diarrhea in an already compromised puppy. My probiotic of choice is from Natures Farmacy <http://naturesfarmacy.com>

In a pinch this probiotic will work from the grocery store until you receive yours from Natures



Conclusion

So let's recap.

You've determined you do indeed have a fading puppy. Here is your check list.

1. Take a rectal temperature for a baseline. If the temp of the pup is below 96 degrees, there's a problem and the puppy needs to be slowly warmed before any other treatment. Put the puppy in your bra. Continue to monitor temp. You can be warming and using handtowels too.
2. While you're carrying the puppy around in your bra, prepare and warm the incubator or prepare and warm the box.
3. Raise the puppy's blood sugar level with 2cc's karo syrup (golden syrup) rubbed on gums
4. Support with warmed Sub Q fluids (a lump the size the pups head)
5. Nourishment
6. Antibiotics
7. Probiotics

These are the basics that I have had great success with helping a fading puppy recover. Persevere, don't give up even when you don't have any fight left in you and you think there isn't a chance of turning the puppy around. I have witnessed it many, many times. It is possible. If there isn't a birth defect of some kind, you mostly have a good chance of bringing them back.

My latest survivor is my Tweety in Sept of 2013 she was dying. She was 4 ounces at birth and on deaths door 3 times.



Here is Tweety today, a year later. She is pictured with her “alter ego”. It seems the alter ego mostly lives at my house now I’m not sure where my sweet Tweety is at most of the time☺



Here is where you can order lactated ringers if you can't get them from your veterinarian.

Sedationkit.com carries fluids. You may have to call them and place order. They are listed as "out of stock", but they usually do have.

Sedationkit.com also carries an assortment of syringes and 20 or 22 gauge needles for administering subQ fluids.

Be prepared to feed. You'll need feeding supplies. An assortment in case one method doesn't work.

Example: 8 French feeding tube and a 5 french feeding tube



Latex Free wedge sponges (Walmart)



I mentioned I didn't like syringes for feeding formula, but these look interesting. I just got them and haven't used them yet. <https://www.facebook.com/LifelinePetSupplies?fref=photo>



And of course a bottle and nipple

You'll need Milk Replacer or the ingredients for the formula and liver water.

A thermometer for the box and a rectal thermometer.

A vaporizer/humidifier

Antibiotics and Probiotics

Either an incubator or a box filled with blankets. (I get all my blankets at Goodwill.

Preparing in advance increases your odds. Watch the videos and order supplies.

Best of luck to you,

Barb Thornberry valorgoldens@aol.com

As always questions welcomed.