



## Protocol

<b>Fading Puppy Protocol (Fosters)</b>	<b>Form #208</b>	<b>Revision #: 1</b>	<b>Issue Date: 2/10/2021</b>
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**Fading Puppy Syndrome** is a life threatening emergency in which a puppy “crashes” and begins to fade away. If not dealt with immediately it can result in death. If you are fostering puppies 6 weeks or younger, it is a very good idea to familiarize yourself with this handout so you know what to do if it happens.

***FPS is caused by 2 things : Hypothermia (being too cold) and Hypoglycemia (not enough blood sugar). You must combat both of these things or the puppy will die.***

### **Symptoms:**

- Extreme Lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet
- Feels cool to the touch
- Gasping for breath
- Whining/Crying out

When this happens, it is vital that you take these immediate steps!

### **Treatment:**

#### **Step 1- Get them warm:**

**Create the “burrito” towel.** Immediately wrap the puppy up in a towel like a burrito leaving their face exposed only. Their whole body, tail, ears, and paws should be in the towel, only nose and mouth exposed. **Do not take the puppy out of the towel to adjust them, check on them, etc. - this is very important!** Every time you take them out you will make them cold again, even if it is only for a second.

You **MUST** apply an extra source of heat (listed below). The puppy's body can't warm itself up with just a towel alone so you have to apply extra heat. Also, your body temperature is much lower than what a puppy should be, so trying to warm them up with your body heat won't work either.

**If you have a heating pad (ideal)** - Then wrap a heating pad \*turned onto low\* around the towel - duct tape it or secure it around the towel so it stays wrapped around them. Don't let the heating pad touch them directly (**it can cause burns!**) make sure the 'burrito' towel is between their skin and the heating pad.

#### **If you don't have a heating pad - you can either:**

1. Keep your dryer running full of towels. Grab a new hot one every 5 minutes and wrap this new hot towel around the “burrito” towel. After 5 minutes, trade that towel out for a new hot one. Don't remove the “burrito” towel.
2. Fill 2 socks full of rice and tie the ends of them so it doesn't spill out. Throw them in the microwave for 3 minutes. Keep them next to the puppy on the outside of the burrito towel. Every 30 minutes reheat one sock and leave the other next to the



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puppy so it doesn't cool off.

### **Step 2- Get their blood sugar up:**

Once you get the heat on them, get a bowl or Tupperware and a few tablespoons of sugar in some hot water. Stir it up so you get a sugar water solution - you don't want it super syrupy like pancake syrup, but you do want it to be as strong as possible while still pretty runny. Undiluted Karo syrup, or agave nectar can be substituted. Using a syringe or your finger to **give 3 drops every 3 minutes into the mouth.** If they aren't swallowing, try not to get it down the throat, try to get it on the tongue or gums. Set an egg timer or use the stopwatch on your cell phone to make sure you are doing it at least every 3 minutes. ***Every 5 minutes or 10 minutes will not work, it must be every 3 minutes.***

### **Step 3 - Call the Emergency Foster Line:**

Contact the Dog Foster Manager at 662-372-1775. Don't leave your puppy to do this call or forget to do your sugar every 3 minutes. They will not have any extra advice for you that is not in this handout, but they will need to be made aware of what is going on so that we can schedule an check up and to determine the cause of the "crash."

### **Prognosis:**

We generally have very good success with these puppies if you follow the above steps.

### ***We DO NOT recommend you rush them to the vet for many reasons:***

You have the motivation to sit right there with them and make them your top priority. A vet clinic has many patients it is helping and can't give your puppy the 100% undivided attention like you can give them.

Your puppy will continue to be cold/hypoglycemic on the way to the vet, in the waiting room, in the hospital while they try to determine what is wrong, etc. Most puppies won't last long enough for them to start the treatments there.

Keep in mind that it can sometimes take hours for them to come out of it and start acting normally again. Don't give up! Once they do come out of it, they will continue to need frequent monitoring and will need to have access to a heating pad. Once their temperature is over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit rectally, food can be introduced to the puppy once again. Puppies must eat in order to maintain a healthy body weight and to keep from getting hypoglycemic.

Also, keep in mind that even with all the love and attention and perfect treatment of this condition, some of them still won't make it. Puppies are very fragile and can get critical quickly. Try not to blame yourself during this difficult time and focus on all the puppies you have personally saved by opening your home to foster puppies. Remember, if it wasn't for you, any puppy you've ever fostered might not have made it on its own without help from humans.