

## **Incubator Temperature, Humidity, and Oxygen Level Recommendations**

The following settings are recommended starting points:

### **Newborn Starting Incubator Temperature:**

- 89 Degrees Fahrenheit
- Typically you will leave the temperature there for the first 3 days
- Adjust temperature down starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> day by decreasing the temperature 0.5 degrees every 12 hours (or 1 full degree per day) until puppies are weaned from the incubator at about 10-14 days
- Watch your puppies! They will tell you when they are too cool by “piling” on top of one another - Adjust your temperature up slightly
- If puppies are too warm they will spread all the way out to the edges and stay there all the time – Adjust your temperature down slightly
- Puppies should be warm and a good uniform pink in color
- A healthy puppy wiggles and squirms when touched
- Puppies should lay next to each other but not on top of one another in the incubator

### **Recommended Humidity Settings:**

- We recommend a humidity setting of inside of the incubator at between 40%-60%. The target being 50% relative humidity. Puppies, kittens, and other small animals are comfortable where we are comfortable at for their entire duration of being in the incubator.

### **Recommend Oxygen Concentrator Settings:**

- We recommend a 2-3 lpm (liter per minute) setting on your oxygen concentrator
- You may increase if needed or apply directly to any baby gasping or turning blue via an oxygen cone or homemade oxygen mask/cone.
- If your puppies seem to be doing well and not gasping you will want to try and reduce the oxygen level starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> day by decreasing the level 0.5 lpm every day. If a puppy begins to gasp take the level

back up and try again the next day until puppies are weaned from the oxygen dependency

**Please Note:** These are general recommended starting settings for newborn puppies or kittens. An air temperature or surrounding air temperature is much different than a floor temperature. Veterinarians will tell you that a recommended air temperature for newborn puppies is 84-89 degrees Fahrenheit while a floor temperature will be higher at around 100-101 degrees Fahrenheit. A floor temperature such as that from a heating pad or heating mat only provides heat from below and does not surround an animal like an air temperature does. This is the reason a recommended floor temperature is much higher than a recommended air temperature. Puppies will maintain a core body temperature of roughly 10-11 degrees Fahrenheit above an air temperature environment. The incubator helps keep their core body temperature regulated and where it should be during the first few weeks of their life. The benefits of an incubator can be improved sleep, improved eating, and overall health. The incubator also allows you a sterile environment to treat sick or ill animals. You can use it strictly for temperature and humidity or to treat illness and help aid in recovery.

Please keep the incubator in a normal room temperature of 68-72 degrees away from other heat sources such as windows, vents, heat lamps, or similar heat emitting devices outside. In addition, we recommend storing an oxygen concentrator (if you are using one) off to the side of the incubator and not directly under it as heat will rise. A concentrator can disperse a good amount of heat and can cause erratic fluctuations in incubator temperature if stored directly under it. An incubator is designed to let you be comfortable, the mother of the pups be comfortable, and the puppies are at the proper temperature to grow and thrive. If you are having issues with the unit getting too warm move to a room with a more consistent temperature of 68-72 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep your pads and bedding changed often as this can cause excess moisture inside the unit and false humidity readings.

Always consult your veterinarian for individualized animal care. This advice does not substitute a veterinarian's advice in terms of animal treatment. However, this is the proper settings we recommend for using our units and raising puppies or kittens inside the unit. This is backed by testing and research of animal care and husbandry as experts in the field.