

# THE FIRST NINE WEEKS

## WEEK ONE

Puppies are born, staying with their Mother full time and in a heated room, just the right temperature for newborn puppies. Mother receives excellent care - high quality dog food and treats to supplement her nursing needs. The puppies have had some human touch so they get used to being touched and accustomed to the smell of “non-canines.”



## WEEK TWO

Much like week one, the puppies are beginning to open their eyes, they continue to receive human touch which is vital to the development of their personalities. They are also beginning to hear the natural noises of chickens, goats and other farm sounds which is vital to the development of their livestock guardian skills.

## WEEK THREE

With eyes open and full hearing now in action the puppies begin to take steps on their own. Still with the Mother full time, they continue to receive daily human touch as well as livestock interaction.

## WEEK FOUR

Now walking, sitting and standing, the puppies are beginning to taste their Mother's food. They are beginning to show some personality, though it is ever developing at this stage. They are more vocal and show interest in people coming to pet them and hold them. Their Mother begins to spend less time with them and they receive more human affection as well as more interactions with livestock.

## WEEK FIVE

The weaning process starts and the puppies begin to eat milk-soaked puppy food. They are more playful and are spending more time in their puppy area. The Mother will only be with them a few more days.

## WEEK SIX

Their Mother is now going back to her Livestock Guardian duties so she can set the example to her puppies as future guardians. The puppies are interacting with livestock on a daily basis and have access to larger paddock areas. They have access in and out of the barn so they are learning fast where to "go" and where "not to go." They are eating some dry food with their milk now and have a good number of their teeth. By the end of this week they are on a feeding schedule of three times a day.

### WEEK SEVEN

Puppies are now on schedule and have figured out where to use the bathroom. They are showing personality and deciding who the boss is. The quiet ones are becoming more obvious and the rowdy ones are getting everyone's attention!

### WEEK EIGHT

Time for their final health check. They continue their bonding and interaction with livestock and learning from their Mother. They also are exploring more areas around the farm and becoming more adventurous. Good job, puppies! You have completed your early training and are ready to move on. Now it is time for us to say good-bye as we pass on the puppy torch.

They are now ready for their new homes and becoming a wonderful lifelong guardian.