

# Kitten and Puppy (0-4 weeks of age) Temperature Chart

Age of Kitten or Puppy	Rectal Temperature <sup>1</sup>	Surrounding Nest Temperature <sup>2</sup>	Room Humidity <sup>2</sup>
0-1 week	95-99°F	85-90°F	55-60%
2-3 weeks	97-100°F	79-84°F	55-60%
4 weeks	99-101°F	73.5-79°F	55-60%

A rectal temperature is taken by placing a thermometer gently in your pet's rectum (his/her bottom). For how-to instructions, see the Maddie's Flash Class on "[Taking the Temperature in a Kitten or Puppy.](#)"

Surrounding Nest Temperature is the temperature immediately surrounding the nest where the kittens and puppies are kept. Inexpensive room thermometers can be found at home supply stores.

Room Humidity can be read with a humidity meter. Inexpensive humidity meters can be found at home supply stores.

**A drop in temperature can greatly affect a kitten or puppy who is between 0-4 weeks of age!** Temperature decrease can cause the heart rate to go down, and the stomach and intestines to slow down as well.

<sup>1</sup>Rickard, Valeria. "Birth and the First 24 Hours." *Small Animal Pediatrics: The First 12 Months of Life*, edited by Michael E. Peterson and Michelle A. Kutzler, Elsevier Saunders, 2011, pp.11-19.

<sup>2</sup>Casal, Margret L. "Management of Orphan Puppies and Kittens." *Management of Pregnant and Neonatal Dogs, Cats, and Exotic Pets*, edited by Cheryl Lopate, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2012, pp.207-216.

