

Litter Health Testing Schedule

Plan your testing from pre-breeding through go-home. Record what you ran, when, and what it showed.

1 Before breeding

Test	When	Why it matters	Date run	Result	Notes
Fecal float with Giardia	2–4 weeks before the planned tie	A parasite load carried into pregnancy reaches the litter			
Urinalysis (dam)	Before the tie	A quiet urinary infection can go unnoticed until she is in whelp			
Ear cytology (if she has a history)	Before the tie	Shows mites, yeast or bacteria instead of treating blind			

2 During pregnancy

Test	When	Why it matters	Date run	Result	Notes
Urinalysis with culture and sensitivity	Any time she strains, drips or licks excessively	Culture names the right antibiotic instead of guess-and-check			
Fecal recheck	Around day 45	Confirms the earlier treatment worked before whelping			

3 After whelping

Test	When	Why it matters	Date run	Result	Notes
Wound swab (cytology and culture)	If a C-section incision looks red, open or slow to heal	Tells you whether infection is present before the recheck			
Urinalysis (dam)	If she is drinking more, straining or off her food	Post-whelping urinary infections are easy to miss			

4 Puppies, weeks 2 to 8

Test	When	Why it matters	Date run	Result	Notes
Fecal float with Giardia	Week 3, and again at week 6	Coccidia and giardia move through a litter fast			
Fecal recheck	10–14 days after any treatment	Confirms the problem is actually cleared			
Ear cytology	If a puppy is scratching or shaking their head	Identifies the cause before another course of drops			

5 Before go-home

Test	When	Why it matters	Date run	Result	Notes
Fecal clearance	Within 7 days of go-home	A clean result handed to the new family protects your reputation			
Weight and milestone check	Go-home week	Record the final weight and hand over the records			

