

# Key Items for Whelping a Litter of Rottweilers

## 1. Whelping Area Setup

- Whelping Box (large breed size)** – Sturdy, easy to clean, with pig rails to prevent mom from accidentally laying on puppies.
  - Example: [EZWhelp Large Whelping Box](#)
- Whelping Pads/Blankets** – Washable, non-slip pads to keep the area clean and sanitary.
  - Example: [EZWhelp Washable Whelping Pads](#)
- Heat Source** – Puppies cannot regulate temperature well the first weeks.
  - Heat lamp** with guard or **heating pad** (set under part of the box, so puppies can move away if too warm).
  - Example: [K&H Pet Products Heated Whelping Pad](#)

## 2. Sanitation & Hygiene

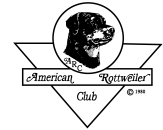
- Disposable gloves** – For assisting deliveries
- Clean towels & paper towels** – For drying and stimulating puppies.
- Disinfectant (puppy-safe)** – e.g., diluted chlorhexidine for cleaning the box.
- Trash bags & laundry baskets** – Keep clean/dirty linens separate.

## 3. Delivery Supplies

- Bulb syringe or suction device** – To clear fluid from puppies' noses and mouths.
  - Example: [Puppy Aspirator](#)
- Umbilical scissors & hemostats** – To clamp and cut cords if mom doesn't.
- Iodine or chlorhexidine solution** – To dip umbilical cords and prevent infection.
- Unwaxed dental floss** – As an alternative to tie off cords.
- Lubricant (KY jelly)** – If manual assistance is required.

## 4. Puppy Care & Monitoring

- Puppy scale (digital, gram sensitive)** – Track daily weight gain.
  - Example: Breeder's Edge Puppy Scale
- Puppy ID collars (color-coded, adjustable)** – To track each pup's growth and progress.
- Thermometer** – Monitor dam's temp pre-whelping (a drop signals labor), and check pups if weak.
- Calcium supplement for dam** – (e.g., oral calcium gel) to prevent eclampsia and aid contractions (use under vet guidance).
- Puppy formula & bottles/tube feeding kit** – As backup if pups don't nurse.
  - Example: Esbilac Puppy Milk Replacer



## 5. Record Keeping

- Whelping chart/record book** – Track birth times, weights, markings, and notes.

If you'd rather start with free printable forms for flexibility or DIY purposes, these are helpful:

- [EZwhelp Free Whelping Charts & Forms](#)  
Offers downloadable charts including whelping logs, puppy weight trackers, and even a 63-day due-date calculator for breeding scheduling—all free to download and print.
- [Dragonlab Free Whelping Record Sheets](#)  
Ready-to-print sheets to track labor start times, puppy IDs, birth details, weight, placenta counts, and litter progress.

## 6. Emergency Readiness

- Veterinarian on call** – Large breeds like Rottweilers may require C-section if complications occur.
- Transport crate** – Large enough for dam if urgent vet trip is needed.
- Oxytocin & other meds** – Only if prescribed by your vet, never administer on your own.

**Pro Breeder Tip for Rottweilers:** Because they are a strong, heavy breed, pig rails are essential to prevent crushing accidents, and monitoring weights closely helps catch weaker pups early. Also, ARC's *mandatory breeder practices* recommend keeping detailed health and litter records for transparency and long-term tracking.