

# THRIVING

Occasionally one or two pups in a litter are born and fail to thrive. However, when most of the pups in a litter have failed to develop and are suffering from inability to absorb and digest food adequately, then it is best to consider the use of acidophilus culture to help improve intestinal digestion of fibre and proteins.

There have been a number of studies that indicate puppies that are supplemented with these microbial cultures improve condition and growth as they regain their digestive function along with immune activity.

Often if a bitch is treated with an antibiotic soon after whelping, residues passed in her milk may prevent the normal development of intestinal bacteria in her nursing pups.

A deficiency of Vitamin E in the diet has also been associated with poor growth and development within litters of puppies.

A supplement of 50IU of Vitamin E daily, combined with a digestive microbial, and a high protein diet can be of great help.

If the pups are well below their growth standards, then it may take 3-6 months for them to catch up which will be aided by ensuring daily exercise along with an improved diet.

Ensure they are given calcium and other bone forming minerals to enable formation of strong joints and reduce the risk of joint abnormalities, such as epiphysitis, if they begin to put on weight and body condition at a rapid rate.