

PREGNANCY INFORMATION

It will be easier on you and your pet if you are prepared!

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR PET IS EXPECTING

The gestation period in dogs is approximately 63 days

Around five to six weeks into her gestation period, her teats will begin to swell, and her stomach will begin to bulge

Feed your pet high quality puppy food during pregnancy and continue until her pups are weaned

Do not give any medications to the mother that were not approved or prescribed by your vet

During the last week of pregnancy, your pet will begin her natural “nesting” instinct

Typical nesting behaviors include avoiding others, seeking quiet places, and scratching to make a bed

It is during this time that you should prepare a whelping box and encourage her to rest there so she does not give birth in an inaccessible area

The whelping box should contain plenty of towels and newspapers to keep the pups warm and comfortable

8-12 hours prior to whelping, the mother’s body temperature may drop to 98°F

Signs of labor include pacing, panting, nervousness, decreased appetite (typically during the last week of pregnancy), and your pet may begin to have abdominal contractions and start to strain

WHEN TO CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

If contractions occur and the first fetus is not delivered within 5 hours

If the interval after the last pup is longer than 3 hours despite evidence of strong contractions

Presence of greenish (or colored) discharge from vulva without delivery of a pup within 30 minutes

If you notice mammary gland(s) that are hot, red, swollen, or firm

If puppies seem bloated, crying excessively, or refusing to suckle

If you notice vaginal discharge with a foul odor, which could appear weeks after delivery

CARING FOR NEWBORN PUPPIES

Caring for newborn puppies is time consuming and tiring but also very rewarding

It is important to keep the pups warm, their environment clean, and ensure they are suckling

Their eyes should open at 7-14 days of age, and they should double their birth weight in 1 week and continue to gain weight

Intestinal parasites are common in puppies, which is why we recommend deworming at 2, 4, and 6 weeks of age

At 5-6 weeks of age, begin to introduce solid food. We recommend Hills, Royal Canin, or Purina puppy food

The first set of vaccines are given between 6-8 weeks of age

At 8 weeks of age, the puppies should be weaned from their mother

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