

Dog Pregnancy Healthcare



A dog's pregnancy

lasts between 63-65 days. Pregnant animals have very different needs and problems to non-pregnant animals. Their **nutritional needs** change during pregnancy and milk production. To maintain a healthy mother and babies it is important to feed correctly throughout pregnancy and lactation.

Labour can be distressing for both owner and pet unless you are aware of what is normal, what is not and when to call for help. We have a labour information leaflet at the practice to allow you to be able to tell the difference between normal birth and problem births where you may need to call for help. Problems during labour, unless promptly dealt with, can lead to death of mother and puppies.

Please make sure you educate yourself on this subject if you have a pregnant pet. We are happy to help.

Problems Associated With Lactation / milk production

Diet - an appropriate diet is very important during milk production as a mother will always feed her babies to the detriment of her own health. This means that if she doesn't get the nutrition she needs from her diet she will use her own body reserves instead resulting in a very thin mother and fat puppies.

Seizures related to hypocalcaemia - A **lack of calcium** in the mother's diet while producing milk can also lead to seizing of the mother which can be life-threatening (*hypocalcaemia*).

Mastitis - an infection in the mammary glands, or the breasts, is a common and painful problem. Glands should be checked twice daily for signs of swelling, teat redness and hardness. Mastitis can cause illness in both mother and puppies.

Weaning - Pups should be fully weaned by 6 weeks of age. You can start weaning from 3½ weeks of age and sometimes, if medically necessary, even sooner.

Please contact us for further information and advice.

For further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Leanne Evertsen
MVB MRCVS

opening hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8.30am-6.00pm

Tuesday & Thursday
8.30am-7.00pm

Saturday
10.00am-12.00 noon

clinic hours

Monday-Friday
9.00-11.00am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

3.00-6.00pm
Tuesday & Thursday
4.00-7.00pm

Saturday
10.00am-12.00 noon

Consultation by appointment only