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Dogs temp before labour

General Practice & Preventative Medicine - Theriogenology BE PREPARED Giving birth can be a frightening, confusing and painful experience for both the dog and the owner. Knowing and understanding normal labor and delivery, as well as proper pregnancy care, can help make the process go more smoothly and help you know what is normal and when it is time to get the veterinarian involved. GESTATION In the bitch, a female dog, gestation lasts 63 days. Knowing the exact time of conception, however, is difficult since a bitch can be receptive to the male before and after ovulation. For this reason, the time from breeding to delivery is usually somewhere between 58 to 70 days. Your veterinarian can help narrow this time frame by examining the cells of the vaginal wall.Be aware that just because your bitch bred does not mean she is pregnant. Some dogs will even show signs of pregnancy and not really be pregnant. There is a phenomenon in dogs known as false pregnancy or pseudocyesis. For confirmation of pregnancy, an examination, with ultrasound and possibly X-rays by your veterinarian, is suggested. NUTRITION Once pregnancy is confirmed, proper care of the mother-to-be is very important. Before breeding, make sure she is up to date on all her vaccinations. It is not recommended to vaccinate your dog during pregnancy. Also, make sure she is dewormed and tests negative for a bacteria known as Brucella. This bacteria can cause abortion in dogs and is also contagious to people. After breeding and conception, most bitches do well during the first 4 to 5 weeks of pregnancy and do not need any special treatments. Things start to change during the last trimester (week 5 to 6). The babies start to rapidly develop and this results in a significant nutritional drain on the mother. At this time, you may want to consider gradually changing her diet to a growth type diet or a food specifically made for pregnant or lactating bitches. Continue this diet throughout the remainder of pregnancy and until the puppies are weaned. Vitamins or other supplements are not recommended nor needed. With a proper diet, your dog will receive the proper amount of nutrients. Excessive amounts can actually result in birth defects. Do not begin feeding your dog a higher calorie food before the last trimester. This can lead to weight gain and fat deposits. This has the potential to cause difficulty in maintaining the pregnancy and can result in problems delivering the puppies. PREPARING FOR DELIVERY As the time of delivery approaches, you may want to make a whelping box to provide a safe and clean area for your dog to deliver. Whelping boxes are intended to be easily accessed by the mother but escape proof for the new arrivals. You can use wood, Formica or any building material that is easy to clean. Make the box large enough for the bitch to comfortably stretch out. Make sure the sides are just low enough for the mother to step over and place the box in a warm, dry, draft-free area. If possible, try to choose a quiet and secluded area. Initially, place newspapers on the bottom of the box for easy clean up. Once all the puppies are born, place blankets or towels to provide some footing for the puppies. Be aware that you must get the bitch used to the whelping box before the birth. If not, she may make her own decision on where to have the puppies - and this may be a closet, a pile of fresh clean laundry or even in the middle of your bed!An additional suggestion is to have your dog examined by a veterinarian toward the end of pregnancy. A thorough physical exam, along with ultrasound or X-rays can help determine how many puppies you can expect. This way, you will know when she is done delivering and not just in another resting phase between pups. LABOR AND DELIVERY As the time of delivery approaches, twice daily monitoring of the bitch's body temperature will help alert you to the impending birth. About 24 hours before the beginning of labor, there will be a temporary drop in the body temperature. Normal temperature is 101 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Twenty-four hours prior to labor, the temperature can drop to 98 to 99 F. LABOR STAGE I After the temperature drop, stage I labor begins, characterized by restlessness and anxiety. You may notice panting, pacing, refusal of food and maybe vomiting. Nesting behavior begins. This is the time to place her in the whelping box (hopefully she is already accustomed to the box). After getting settled in the whelping box, you may notice her dragging clothing or fabric to the area to form a comfortable bed. You may want to remove any clothing as whelping begins or these pieces of clothing may be permanently stained. This stage of labor typically lasts 6 to 12 hours. At the end of stage I, the cervix is completely dilated. If your dog has not started whelping within 24 hours after beginning stage I labor, veterinary assistance is recommended. LABOR STAGE II Stage II labor is defined as the part of labor when the puppy is delivered. Visible contractions begin. The abdomen tenses and the bitch begins straining. This action will appear similar to the bitch trying to have a bowel movement. The first puppy should be delivered within 1 to 2 hours of the onset of contractions and straining. Veterinary assistance is strongly encouraged if the first puppy is not delivered within 2 hours after the onset of contractions.After delivery of the puppy, the bitch may enter a resting phase that can last up to 4 hours. Active straining will begin again and more puppies will be delivered. If you know there are additional puppies yet to be born and the resting period is longer than 4 hours, veterinary assistance is necessary. This resting phase may not occur after each delivery. Sometimes, several puppies may be born rapidly. LABOR STAGE III After delivery of a puppy, the bitch may enter stage III labor. This is the time when the placenta, after birth, is delivered and usually occurs 5 to 15 minutes after delivery of the puppy. If multiple puppies are born rapidly, several placentas may be expelled together. After the passage of the placenta, the bitch will return to stage II labor. She may continue the resting phase or begin contracting. Throughout whelping, the bitch will fluctuate between stage II and stage III labor until all the puppies are born. It is very important to keep track of the number of placentas. There should be the same number of placentas as puppies. If a placenta is retained in the uterus, the bitch will eventually become quite ill. WHELPING As soon as the puppy is born (whelped), the mother should immediately start cleaning the puppy. She should begin vigorously licking the puppy, remove him from the amniotic sac if still present and chew the umbilical cord. The bitch may even ingest the placenta. This is not necessary and, sometimes, can lead to vomiting and diarrhea. Prompt removal of the placentas can help you keep track of how many placentas she has passed.Those puppies that are born still in the sack need immediate help. If the mother does not open the sack and begin cleaning the puppy, it is up to you to help. Tear the membrane of the sack and begin cleaning and rubbing the puppy with a clean dry towel. Cleaning other puppies may be necessary if the mother is not showing much interest in her newborns. Tie off the umbilical cord about 1 inch from the belly wall using string, thread or dental floss. Cut the cord off on the other side of the tie. Clean and rub the puppy vigorously until you hear crying. Place the puppy back with the new mom and make sure she allows the puppies to nurse. Being prepared to assist and understanding newborn puppy care is essential to help the mother and her babies through these first steps of life. Articles Home Dog Care Cat Care Diseases Symptoms Drug Library Tests Procedures Medioimages/Photodisc/Photodisc/Getty Images While most dogs do not require assistance during delivery, your being there when your dog delivers is important in case an emergency arises. Luckily, your dog's temperature is a natural indicator of impending labor; it will always drop before the onset of labor. As your dog's due date approaches, monitor her temperature daily to help pinpoint when the puppies will arrive. The normal rectal temperature of a healthy dog is between 101 and 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. The gestation period for a dog is between 58 and 71 days. During the final week of your dog's pregnancy, begin taking her temperature two to four times a day. When your dog's temperature falls below 100 degrees Fahrenheit, labor should begin within 24 hours. Adrienne is a certified dog trainer and former veterinarian assistant who partners with some of the best veterinarians worldwide.Signs of dog laborAlexdry (all rights reserved)Be Prepared by Educating Yourself you have bred your dog and all is proceeding well, you should be anxiously expecting puppies within 60 to 63 days on average. As the whelping day nears, it's very normal to feel a bit on edge, and the best way to get your mind at ease is by learning as much as possible about what to expect. It's imperative to familiarize yourself as much as you can with the canine birthing process and acknowledge the number of things that may go wrong. By recognizing potential problems early, you will be able to be better prepared to face them, heightening your chances for a safe delivery. Learn more about the whole birthing time frame for your dog from the first stages of labor up to delivery, and learn how to recognize the potential complications. Because each breed of dog is prone to different complications, and each dog is ultimately unique in the birthing and whelping process, it's best to expect the unexpected. Preparedness is the ultimate key for the successful upbringing of litters of healthy puppies.alexdry at rights reservedTime Frame for a Dog's Normal Birthing Process As whelping day nears, you want to start getting ready for the big event. Make sure your veterinarian is aware of the estimated date your dam will be whelping. You want to ensure he will be available in case of need. You should have a back-up plan in case the big day happens to be on a Sunday or in the late evening or early morning hours. Make sure you know of an animal emergency center open when all veterinarian offices are closed. You don't want to be frantically searching for an open veterinarian office open in the middle of the night, losing precious minutes when every second counts! Keep all those numbers handy to in your phone book or attach them to your fridge with a magnet.One Week PriorA week prior to the estimated big birthday, it's a good idea to clip your dog's hair around the belly and rear, literally from tail to ankles. This will help prevent getting her coat stained with birth fluids, which are known for being almost impossible to remove, especially in light-colored dogs. If you are unable to, or unwilling to clip the whole tail, the next best option would be to wrap the tail using vet wrap right when the whelping process starts.On Day 57At day 57, you want to start taking your dam's temperature. Invest in a good digital thermometer and take the temperature rectally twice a day, morning and evening. A normal reading in dogs is a temperature ranging between 101 to 102 degrees. Generally, a few days prior to giving birth, a dog's temperature will drop and be around the 100-degree mark, fluctuating but generally not going below 99 or above 101. A good indication that whelping day is less than 24 hours away is a rectal temperature recording below 99. You need good timing on catching this temperature since the temperature will resume to 101 degrees just before whelping. Keeping a graph of any fluctuations may be helpful. Call your vet immediately if your dog registers a temperature above 102 degrees, or as low as three degrees lower than your dam's normal temperature.First Stage of LaborYour dog may suffer from loss of appetite on whelping day. Some dams will regurgitate their earlier meal and act lethargic, often sleeping deeply more than usual. The whelping mother will then go through occasional minor contractions for several hours, before active labor with intense contractions take place. You will notice your dog panting rapidly, moving restlessly, whining and sleeping deeply during the first stage of labor. Veterinarian Kris Nelson claims that some dams will have small contractions that are mostly not visible and will look at their sides as if saying: "What is happening to me?" At this moment you may be wondering "How long should a dog be in labor for?" Generally, you should contact your vet if stage one of labor goes on for eight hours or longer without progressing to stage two.Second Stage of LaborYour dog will likely start panting heavily and appear highly alert at this stage. The contractions will be visible when she enters the second stage of labor. Usually, at this stage, a puppy should be delivered within fifteen minutes of active straining. At this point, a grayish-blue slimy looking sac should emerge from the dam's birth canal. This sac contains the puppy and should be expelled within a second or three contraction. Following the puppy, the mother will expel the placenta, which is commonly known as the "afterbirth". Your dam may eat the placenta and then the sac, tearing it from around the puppy. If this is the case, you must intervene and help the mother by manually tearing the sac from the puppy's head to allow the puppy to breathe. Do this within 30 seconds after birth, keeping the puppy always near mom.Eating the placenta is instinctual since it removes evidence of birth to prevent attracting predators. However, the placenta also contains nutrients that turn out helpful during a time of strenuous and costly effort. Among the nutrients are some that help maintain strong contractions, explains breeder, exhibitor, and trainer Beth J. Finder in her book Breeding a Litter. Eating the placenta, however, remains a controversial topic. Some breeders highly recommend it, while some veterinarians claim they may cause intestinal obstructions or diarrhea. Whichever choice you make, ensure your dog has expelled one placenta per puppy.The dam should then gnaw on the umbilical cord. It may help to keep one or two fingers between the puppy's abdomen and your dam's mouth, to prevent her from cutting it too short. If this does not happen, you can clamp the umbilical cord with sterilized hemostats just two inches from the abdomen. You should have time to clamp the umbilical cords as needed, since puppies generally arrive anywhere from a few minutes to an hour apart.Often puppies are born with amniotic fluids in their lungs which causes them to inhale the fluids. To help these pups, hold them at a head-down angle and using a pediatric syringe insert the tube in the pup's mouth and withdraw the fluids so the puppy can breathe. Shaking the puppy down to clear its airways may be necessary.Don't forget about mom! Being in labor for 6 to 10 hours can be quite strenuous. Angie Meroshneoff suggests keeping a tub of vanilla ice cream handy to feed to her when she is halfway through giving birth. The sugar supplementation should give her an energy burst to keep her going!Third Stage of LaborIn giant breeds, it may be difficult to tell when the whelping process has finished. The puppies are small compared to the dam's deep chest and heavy abdomen, explains veterinarian Dan Rice, in the book The Complete Book of Dog Breeding. During stage three of labor, any retained placentas are delivered. This is why it is important to have a veterinarian perform x-rays or ultrasound imaging to ensure no puppy or placenta is retained. If not, a retained puppy or placenta may result in a serious potentially fatal infection. The puppies should be nursing as soon as possible after delivery. They need the colostrum, which is rich of maternal immune system boosters, only produced for a short period of time. If a puppy is not nursing, directing it to the source of milk may be helpful. However, a puppy can go one or two hours without nursing and still be healthy, adds Beth J. Finder. Once nursing and receiving the nurturing colostrum, puppies should grow pretty fast and weighing them may be the best way to track their growth.Potential Signs of TroubleOf course, the above whelping depicts a pretty normal uneventful delivery with a happy ending. Unfortunately, that is not always the case, and here are several things that may go wrong in your dam's birthing process. The following are warning signs of trouble that will require prompt veterinary intervention.See your vet if your dog is:Not whelping within 24 hours of the temperature drop Expelling a greenish or brown fluid without a puppy born within fifteen minutes. In stage one of labor for eight hours without progressing to stage two In active labor contracting, but not producing a puppy in over two hours Not straining in between puppies for over one hour and you know there are more puppies to be born Past due the 63rd day from the last breeding and has yet not gone into labor But most importantly, if you feel something is wrong, do not hesitate to call or see your vet, better to be safe than sorry! As much as nature runs its course during delivery and dog owners are told to minimize their interventions and just relax, things do not always go as planned.Catherine de la Cruz, who has been breeding Great Pyrenees for several years, claims that all sorts of problems have occurred to her at some time during the past 30 years of breeding dogs. So better resort to awareness and advanced planning in order to whelp a healthy litter of puppies and succeed!Above all else, please keep your vet's phone number handy and don't hesitate to call him if anything appears to be abnormal. All new moms and pups should see a veterinarian for a wellness exam within 48 hours post-whelping.ReferencesCatherine de la Cruz, White Fire Great Pyrenees: What Can Possibly Go Wrong?Dan Rice, The Complete Book of Dog BreedingDr. Kris Nelson, Normal Stages of Whelping in DogsDr. Kris Nelson, Canine Labor, When to Call the VetFurther ReadingThe Dog's Heat Cycle ExplainedA dog's heat cycle may appear to be something quite difficult to understand. Unlike other species, the heat cycle of canines does not seem to follow any logic such as following a specific seasonality or...How to help your dog give birthSixty three days have passed since your dog has been bred and you think the big day has come. Your dam has reported the typical rectal temperature drop of 99.0 or lower. She has also lost her appetite, appears restless and has started the nesting. .Dog pregnancy testDetermining if your dog is pregnant or not can be somewhat challenging, especially for the new owner or the inexperienced breeder. Many things need to be considered when trying to count the odds. Most likely if your dog was at her most fertile time...All about dog pregnancyAfter your beloved dog has been matched with a handsome stud and successfully bred, the 63 day countdown has begun. A mix of emotions pour over you, of course, lots of excitement but also bits of anxiety as this is the first dog you own to be...Signs of Pregnancy in DogsIs my dog pregnant? Signs your dog may be pregnant, nestor4u2, morgiefie.com Dog owners that start looking for signs of pregnancy in their dog are generally split into two distinct categories, on one side there are those that have planned the...Signs your dog is pregnantWhen it comes to canine pregnancy there are two different types of owners: the This article is accurate and true to the best of the author's knowledge. It is not meant to substitute for diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, prescription, or formal and individualized advice from a veterinary medical professional. Animals exhibiting signs and symptoms of distress should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.Questions & AnswersQuestion: Do dogs go through false labor?Answer: Yes, dogs can go through what's known as false pregnancy and it may mimic labor. Some dogs will start nesting behaviors, their tummy swells and some even produce milk. Question: Does the mother dog deliver one horn and then the second horn?Answer: Yes, mother dog first delivers all of the pups in one horn before moving to the next horn. Question: Can a dog give birth at 59 days?Answer: Puppies can be delivered as early as 59 days, but usually, they are born around 63 days. On average, consider that the typical gestation length for a dog is 59 to 63 days. In general, puppies born earlier than 58 days though may struggle as they may not be fully developed. Check your dog's temperature. Once the temperature drops below 99F, your dog should go into labor within 24 hours.Question: When a dog first mates do they sleep a lot?Answer: It depends. If there was a lot of playing prior and going to the stud involved travel, this may have tired the dog out. Going to a new place may also cause stress which may make a dog more tired. Best to see a vet though if the dog is acting lethargic, is acting abnormally or has lack of appetite just to play it safe. © 2011 Adrienne FarricellCommentsPreethi on July 27, 2020:Thanks there is a clear mind set in reading ur pethfulful thank u so muchMonica on December 30, 2019:My Chihuahua discharge and her vaginal area is pinkish and swollen what should I doAmanda on December 28, 2019:Help! My baby girl is howling and panting and whining she threw up and pee every where and having discharge I don't know if she is in labor or what going on.Stephanie on April 29, 2019:My dog is having minor contractions and wont stay in one place how long does the first set lastVinod Kumar on April 27, 2019:My husky was in heat I took her to a breeder and she was mate during her 2nd mate her lock was only for 10min and after some time she also had a motion with loose stool is any problem with it, and not only that she is not eating anythingMelissa on March 03, 2019:My chiauwha is 60 days pregnant today she was leaking white milky fluids yesterday and today been leaking a snot green color fluid she ate some food yesterday morning but now she's not eating anything her temperature has been 97.2 but today it's 100.00 what does this meanTina on January 26, 2019:My samoyed dog is on the 57th week of pregnancy..she vomit twice it is possible that she going to give birth?Mitzi on December 26, 2018:My dog seemed to be going into labor 4 days ago. Very ancy , panting heavily . she went under bed to get away..she now has her milk in and is acting her normal self. But we dont have puppies??? Im so confused?Deepak on December 24, 2018:Hi my female Labrador is 14 months old I can't understand either she is heat or not but my dog is riding on her and licking her uteres is it a silent heatili on July 12, 2018:do dogs sleep alot before going into laborEliomar torres on July 10, 2018:I have a bulle pitbull she gave birth to four puppies but for some reason the mother nurse and she still pushing but nothing coming outCowtham on July 05, 2018:It's nearly 60 daysMy dog is pregnant how many days does it take to giv birth I don't have much idea about dis pls help mellen on July 03, 2018:My labrador female started stage one yesterday and has not producerd a pup yet, how much longer should I waitTamina Seibel on April 13, 2018:I have a parsons jack russell who gave birth to 8 healthy happy puppies just 3 days ago, we saw our vet yesterday and he said her and her babies are doing fine, I'm concerned about when she is nursing them she pants like she's been running or maybe thirsty. I try and offer her a drink of water but she will have nothing to do with it. she will however drink a little milk if I offer it to her. do you no why she does that?Leanna toews on March 26, 2018:My dogs temp has been between 37.7 and 37.9 with 12 mps of 38 since yesterday afternoon.. she is pacing and has heavy panting periods with breaks of sleep in between but still eating should I be expecting her puppies soonJADE on March 15, 2018:My jack Russell had fluid I'm not sure if it was pee or waters broken, quite a bit, puppies are moving around alot but she isn't in any discomfort or pain, she is soundly asleep, is she in stage one labour? First litterpage hardmen on February 04, 2018:You guys have been really helpful thanksAdrienne Farricelli (author) on January 25, 2018:Sharon, a call to your vet can help you decide the best course of action.Sharon L. 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