

Increased Reproductive Success

Dr. Walter Threlfall

The normal reproductive cycle of the bitch is comprised of four stages: proestrus, estrus, diestrus, and anestrus.

The first estrus can be abnormal--split or variable.

Proestrus:

Average duration is 9 days with a range of 3-17 days--from the onset of a bloody vulvar discharge and initiation of vulvar swelling, which increases until late proestrus. Estrogen levels increase.

Increased estrogen--edema vulvar lips and bleeding--the source of bloody discharge is the uterus.

Estrus cycle:

Behavior --Receptivity to mating marks the beginning of the estrus stage.

Vulvar appearance

Vaginal appearance--

Vaginal cytology-very important- Used for reproductive health and commonly employed clinical aid to determine reproductive stage and whether it is normal. Able to see if there is an increase in White Blood Cells, which could show a problem.

Progesterone concentration-increase in serum progesterone

Luteinizing Hormone-The average bitch will experience the LH surge on Day 10.

Follicles begin to luteinize. This causes progesterone concentration to increase prior to ovulation.

LH surge occurs rapidly following ovulation.

LH surge is a worthy thing to follow--The LH surge is the central timing event of the bitch's cycle.

Ovulation occurs 24-72 hours following the LH Surge.

If estrogen is given, a bitch can get aplastic anemia and die.

Sperm is needed two days after ovulation when the eggs mature.

Sperm can live for 5-7 days.

Once the day of the LH surge is determined ,ovulation will occur . The bitch should be bred two days after ovulation. The reason that conception occurs 2 days following ovulation is because when ovulation occurs, the ova are immature It can take up to 48 to 72 hours to mature. Once matured, the ova remain viable for another 2 to 3 days

Male:

If a male has retained testicals the first four months of life, he will not produce sperm.

Enlarged epididymis is a result of brucellosis.

At age 5 testicular degeneration starts. So at age 2-5 years is ideal for breeding.

Dogs over 5 years of age, the prostate gets larger and can start bleeding into the ejaculate.

Castrated males are more likely to get tumors.

If a bitch cycles every three months, check drops are recommended, because the uterus needs to rest.

Frequent cycles effect uterine involution-in pregnant or non pregnant bitches--not complete until about 120 days following ovulation.

Diestrus

Diestrus is the period of pregnancy in a bitch if she was bred.

Is she was not pregnant, diestrus is about two months.--and the bitch may have a false pregnancy.

Anestrus

Anestrus is a period of rest. Lasts 2 to 10 mths.