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Brief Information on

WHELPING IN DOGS

These notes are informative but simplified. They give general information. If you have specific questions or concerns, please phone us 64371331 0408140548.

Most dogs are pregnant for 63 days [9 weeks] counting from the last successful mating. But pregnancies of 57 – 72 days are considered normal.

For ease of description, the timing is divided into 3 stages

STAGE 1. The dog's womb is prepping: this can take 6-12 hours
You may see: restlessness, panting, pacing, perhaps 'nesting'

STAGE 2. The passage of a puppy
Most dogs will lie down, and circle round to lick the vulva.
Once they start to visibly 'push' their efforts should not wane until a pup is born
Most pups present as a fluid-filled sac which the mother-dog licks open
The pup may present forwards or backwards. Both are normal.
Any part of the pup that has emerged should NOT go back in
The mother dog should not seem to ignore the birthing; that may indicate undue pain

STAGE 3. Passage of the afterbirth
The mother-dog usually licks her pup throughout its birth then rapidly eats away the cord and afterbirth.
Prior to the first pup, she may leak fluids but not blood, and no green stain
Between pups a greenish stains may be seen: this is normal. A 'girth' band on the pups' birth sac has a deep green stain that is released when the birth sac is broken.
One sac usually accompanies or soon follows each pup. Sometimes it may stall and come after the next pup instead. Try to count the sacs as they pass, so you know they are all passed.

The well-washed newborn normally noses its way to a teat to nuzzle and eventually suckle. This suckling and massage of the mother-dog assists the 'push' for the next puppy

STAGES 2 and 3 are repeated until all pups are born, and all afterbirth passed

The mother-dog may have small drinks and even eat if she wants to, but most don't.

Time between pups? Usually only a few minutes, but sometimes several hours. If the mother-dog is content and the pups warm and feeding then things are probably OK. But please do phone us [64371331 // 0408140548] if you get worried.

Each pup should suckle within 12 hours from its mum: this is important for its strength and well-being but also for the absorption of protective antibodies in the colostrum or 'first milk'. You may have to help the puppies "latch on" to get the first nursing done.

Most mother-dogs will lose birth fluids for several days after birth. These may be bulky, especially in bigger dogs, and may develop a strong [mal]odour. This is normal. You can clean her up, but make sure you towel dry gently, thoroughly. If she is eating, and caring for her pups, you probably need not worry.

She should not seem exhausted: she should be zealous in caring for her pups.

She should not vomit. Nor drink excessively. If there is colic, a pup seems stuck, or after significant pushes she slows completely, please phone us [64371331; 0408140548]