



Pregnancy Timeline

Week One

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Fertilization occurs
- + 2 cell embryos are in the oviduct
- + The embryo is fairly resistant to external interference in development

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Possible morning sickness
- + Possible personality changes

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + Normal feeding
- + Check any and all medications with vet prior to administering
- + No insecticides (i.e., flea treatments)
- + No live vaccines

Week Two (Days 8-14)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Embryo will be 4 cell at start of week and 64 cell by end of week
- + Embryo enters the uterus

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Possible morning sickness (can also come in week 5)
- + Possible personality changes (Sleeping more, quiet)

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + Continue as with Week One

TO DO LIST

- + Nothing special this week

Week Three (Days 15-21)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Day 19 — Implantation of embryos in uterus
- + The embryo is sensitive to external interference in development
- + Arrange ultrasound to confirm pregnancy at around 28 – 35 days

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + See above

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + See above
- + Make sure week 3 is calm for the bitch.

TO DO LIST

- + Nothing special this week

Week Four (Days 22-28)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Development of eyes and spinal cords
- + Faces take shape
- + Fetuses grow from 5-10 mm to 14-15 mm
- + Organogenesis begins— Embryos are at their most susceptible to defects
- + Days 26 – 32 are the best days to palpitate (i.e.. feel for the puppies)

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Possible clear vaginal discharge
- + Mammary development begins

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + After Day 26, palpitation may be possible to diagnose pregnancy.
- + Limit strenuous activity (such as working, jumping, long runs)

TO DO LIST

- + Schedule ultrasound or palpitation with vet if desired (day 30-35 is good for ultrasound)

Week Five (Days 29-35)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Development of toes, whisker buds, and claws
- + Fetuses look like dogs

- + Gender can be determined
- + Eyes (previously open) now close
- + Fetuses grow from 18 mm – 30 mm
- + Organogenesis ends — embryos are fairly resistant to interference with development

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Swelling becomes noticeable
- + Loss of “tuck-up”
- + Weight will start to increase

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + Slightly increase amount of food and switch to puppy kibble. If you feed one meal a day, add an extra meal. If you feed twice a day, slightly increase one of the meals.
- + Palpitation no longer possible due to fluids in uterus

TO DO LIST

- + Ultrasound scan will confirm pregnancy and give approximate numbers

Week Six (Days 36-42)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Development of skin pigment
- + Fetuses should weigh around 6 grams and be 45 mm long
- + Fetal heartbeats can be heard with stethoscope

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Nipples darken and enlarge
- + Abdomen continues to enlarge

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + Increase the amount of food in the extra meal
- + Bitch can start sleeping in whelping box

TO DO LIST

- + Assemble whelping box
- + By this time you should be fairly sure that the bitch is pregnant, note if you have not had an ultrasound scan to confirm pregnancy, get one booked in as bitches with a singleton pup or small litter often don't look pregnant and you need to be prepared.. It is not only small breeds that have singleton puppies.

Week Seven (Days 43-49)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Growth and development continues

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Abdomen hair will start shedding
- + The bitch will start to look pregnant at this point

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + Slightly increase both meals

TO DO LIST

- + Stop any rough play or jumping

Week Eight (Days 50-57)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Fetal movement can be detected when bitch is at rest
- + Puppies can safely be born from about day 56

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Milk may be squeezed from nipples
- + The bitch will be very large.

CARE OF THE BITCH

- + Add moderate lunch

TO DO LIST

- + Ultrasound check up to determine estimation with number of puppies and to confirm progressing normally
- + Gather whelping kit
- + Prepare phone list for help/support. It should include your vet's phone number, the emergency vet's phone number, the number of any friends who will be offering support during whelping, and anyone else you might need to contact before, during, or after whelping
- + Make sure your car has fuel and ready for a possible emergency trip to the vet's

Week Nine (Days 58-65)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPPIES

- + Growth and Development continues

CHANGES IN THE BITCH

- + Nesting behavior may be seen
- + Bitch may become distressed (panting, pacing, acting uncomfortable, shivering, loose bowels)

+ When temperature drops significantly, puppies should be born within 24-48 hrs

+ Appetite may disappear as whelping approaches

CARE OF THE BITCH

+ Start taking temperature three times a day

TO DO LIST

+ Make sure your phone's battery is charged

+ Keep detailed records on temperature and behavior of bitch

+ Double check that whelping supplies are ready

Post Partum

* Make sure each puppy gets some of the bitch's colostrum (first milk) within first 24 hours.

* Lochia (vaginal discharge) should be reddish to reddish-brown (green is okay on first day). If you see black discharge, contact your vet immediately!

* Within 5-6 hours of last puppy's birth, you can take bitch to be checked up by your vet, or ultrasound scan to confirm no retained puppies or placentas. Check each pup for cleft palates.

*Milk can take a few days to come in, don't panic and bottle feed - it's supply and demand, keep pups suckling (Fenugreek is great for helping with milk supply)

*A Calcium supplement may be required for the bitch while she is feeding the puppies to prevent eclampsia. She will need a good quality balanced diet.

<http://dogultrasounddirectory.co.uk/>