

Thinking Of Breeding From Your Dog?



Breeding a litter of puppies can be very rewarding, but if you are new to dog breeding, you should remember that it can also be very time consuming and a costly experience.

Before breeding you should ensure that your dog is fit and healthy and that the bitch has a good temperament.

Have you considered carrying out the recommended health checks prior to breeding? You can find information about the health tests to consider prior to mating at the Kennel Club Breed Information Centre www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Could you afford up to £1500 for a caesarian if she required it?

Could you cope, care for and devote enough time if she had a large litter of 10+ puppies, until they go to their new homes around 8 weeks of age?

Have you considered the possibility of having to hand rear these puppies, feeding them every 3 hours day and night?

Are you able to rear the litter correctly including worming and socialisation?

Are you able to find appropriate homes for your puppies and provide advice to the new owners, about diet, vaccinations, training and health problems?

Are you able to take back or re-home any puppies if required?

If you are unable to say yes to any of these questions then breeding may not be for you and you may wish to get your bitch spayed to prevent any unplanned litters.

If you have answered yes to all these questions then you should take into account that your bitch should be over a year old and should have had at least one normal season prior to mating.

It is important to find a suitable stud dog and that he has a compatible pedigree and that he too has had the necessary health checks.

The average day to mate a bitch is on the 11th -14th day of her season. However some ovulate earlier than this or much later, you might want to consider and ovulation test at your vets to determine an ideal day to mate.

Once the bitch has been mated it is important to note these dates so you can calculate a rough due date. The bitch's gestation period is 63-65 days. You may wish to arrange a pregnancy scan for your bitch at 4 weeks to confirm pregnancy, as often a false pregnancy can present similar symptoms just without the production of puppies.

Please see our information sheet for Care Of The Pregnant and Lactating Bitch.