

HEAT CYCLE & their Symptoms

IF YOU DO NOT PLAN ON BREEDING YOUR DOG PLEASE SPAY HER WHEN SHE IS AT LEAST 6 MONTHS OF AGE.

This common operation removes her uterus and her ovaries. Recovery from this altering surgery is fairly quick with little complication.

REASONS TO SPAY/NEUTER DOGS

- **Reduces dog's need to roam.**
- **Reduces and/or eliminates certain reproductive cancers.**
- **Disburdens female dog of heat cycle and discomforts which accompany.**
- **Lessens dominance and mounting activity.**
- **Increases general lifespan of dog.**
- **Eliminates owner's concern of unwanted puppies, runaway stud dogs, stained furniture, nervous, and aggressive mood swings in pets.**
- **Relieves community of homeless dogs and property damage.**

A female dog usually comes into "heat" or is "in season" every 6 months. Danes usually come into heat the 1st time around 10-12 months of age.

The entire "Heat" period lasts an average of 21 days, but this may vary with some dogs. The actual "breeding time" is only a matter of 2 or 3 days in the 3-week period, but this time can be very difficult to determine.

The symptoms at the beginning of the heat cycle usually start with her paying a great deal of attention to and licking at her vulva frequently, and there is some hard swelling around the vaginal area. She will begin dark red bleeding from the vagina. The flow may be fairly heavy the first few days and usually decreases in amount over the next week. The color also changes from dark red to salmon color as the heat progresses. The vulva, or area around the vagina, swells considerably and then begins to soften, as her progesterone level rises and her body prepares to release the eggs from the ovaries. She will curve her tail over to the left or right side as she becomes closer to the actual mating time and will urinate frequently to spread her scent for the males.

You can avoid blood spots in the house by putting little boy's jockey type underwear with a fly on her. Place a Light Days pad into the shorts and then put the pants on backwards, so that the tail comes out the fly. EXAMPLE: A 30 lb. dog uses a size 6 or 6x jockey underwear. Disposable kiddies 'pull-ups' can also be used, but they are quite expensive. Change the mini-pad regularly as needed through the day, and give her time to clean herself when she comes back into the house from doing her 'chores' before you put the pants back on her. Remember to remove the 'pants' when you let her outside to 'relieve' herself!

Some females are very determined to not be bred, and will attack the male viciously. Other females will breed with every dog in the neighborhood if they are given the opportunity to do so.

If you do not want to have puppies at this time, you must exercise great care and caution through this 3-week period.

Do not take her for walks at all, but keep her confined to the fenced back yard for the whole time. The reason for this is that she will urinate frequently while on a walk; just to let the boys know she is available. The males will pick up the scent and follow her trail to your home. You really don't want a motley collection of canine suitors hanging around your house.

IF YOU PLAN ON BREEDING

DO NOT BREED YOUR BITCH EVERY TIME SHE COMES INTO HEAT.
BEST HEALTH BENEFIT FOR THE BITCH IS NO MORE THAN ONE LITTER PER YEAR,
AFTER SHE HAS HAD A LEAST 2 or 3 HEAT CYCLES.

NOTE: Because bitches often become aggressive during mating, the bitch always travels to the stud. This way she's less likely to be territorial and will allow him to mount her.

FIRST STAGE: First 5 days. When your bitch is approaching her period of heat and you intend to breed her, have her stool checked for intestinal parasites, and if any are present, worm her. Feed her a well-balanced diet. Her appetite will increase in the preparatory stage of the mating cycle as her vulva begins to swell. She will become restless, will urinate more frequently and will allow dogs to approach her, but will not allow copulation. .

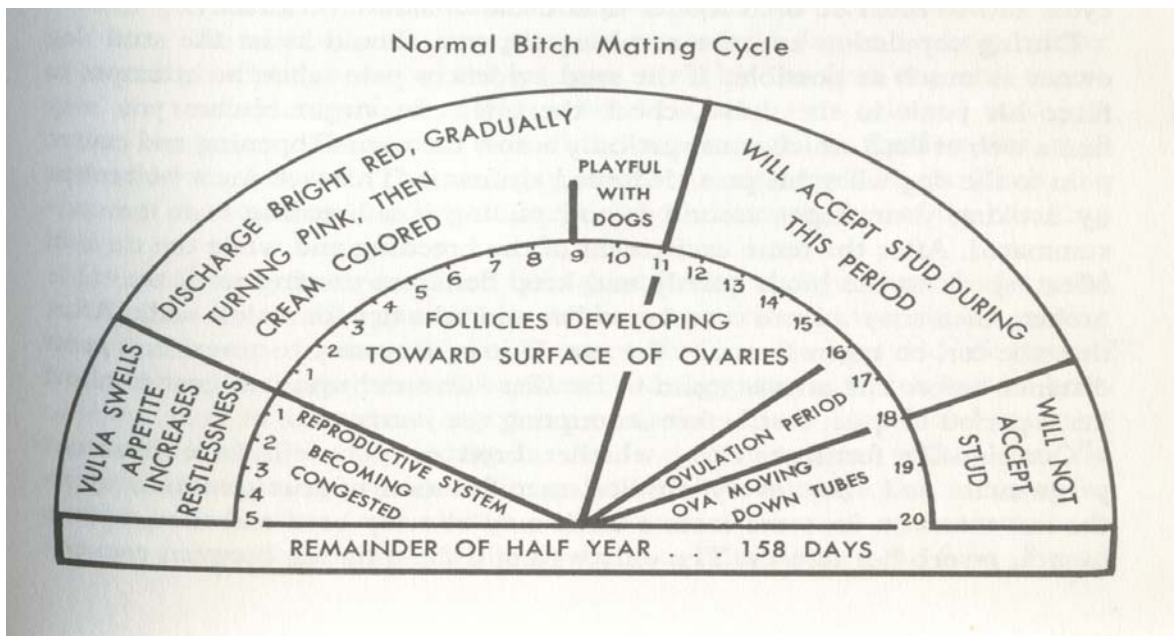
SECOND STAGE: Lasts about 10 days but can vary. First signs of blood from the vulva. In some blood does not appear at all, or so little that it goes unnoticed by the owner, and sometimes we find a bitch that will bleed throughout the cycle. The bitch becomes very playful with animals of her own and the opposite sex, but will still not permit copulation. The red discharge gradually turns pink, becoming lighter in color until it becomes straw color and is no longer obvious. Vulva is more swollen and becomes increasingly more playful with males. Rather than rely upon any set time period, it is best to conclude that this period reaches its conclusion when the bitch will stand for the stud and permit copulation. This generally occurs at about the 10th day, but can take place as early as the 4th or 5th day of this period or as late as the 7th day.

THIRD STAGE: Acceptance Period. **DO NOT FORCE COPULATION.** The bitch will swing her hind end toward the dog, and she will permit copulation. The bitch may be sensitive and yelp and pull away when the stud's penis touches the lining of the vagina. If this occurs several times, it is best to wait another day, until the sensitivity has left the region. A very definite indication that the bitch is in the acceptance period is the softness and flaccidity of the vulva, from which the firmness and congestion have gone.

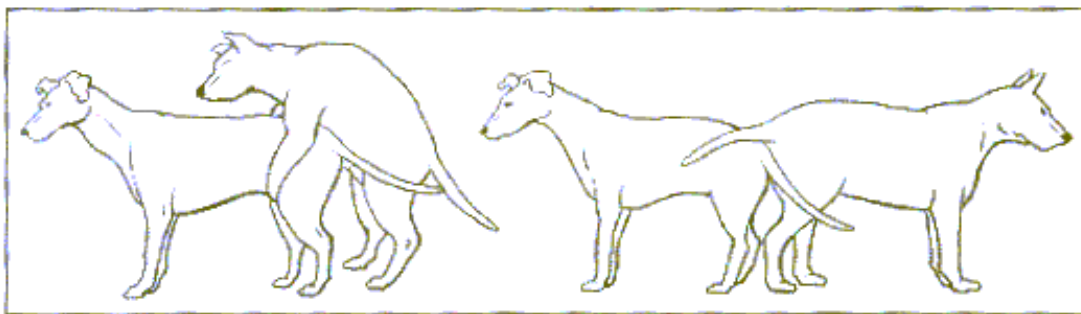
If the bitch has a normal mating cycle, as shown on the diagram, the best time to breed her is about the 13th or 14th day of the mating cycle, when ovulation has occurred. This time also varies with the individual bitch, so that until you have bred your bitch once or twice and feel that you know the best time for her, it is better to breed her on the 11th day and every other day thereafter until her period of acceptance is over.

Acceptance period ceases rather abruptly, and is signaled by the bitch's definite resistance to male advances.

Note: The number of puppies born in any litter is not dependent upon the healthy and fertile male's sperm, but upon the number of eggs the bitch gives off.



DO NOT throw water on them or anything else to try to separate them. Let nature take its course. Both can be seriously injured if you try to separate them before its time.



Canine mating usually ends in a tie, where the dogs stand back to back while they're still joined.

REASONABLE TESTS REQUESTED BY A STUD DOG OWNER AND TO MAXIMIZE THE CHANCES OF A HEALTHY LITTER

- LYME WESTERN BLOT (differentiates between vaccinal and natural Lyme exposure)
- BRUCELLA TITER*
- CULTURE AND SENSITIVITY (aerobic)*
- CULTURE (mycoplasma)
- WHITE BLOOD COUNT*

MAIDEN BITCH: It is best to breed her this first time to an older stud that knows his business. When you bring her to the stud and if there are adjoining wire-enclosed runs, put the stud in one run and the bitch in the other. They will make overtures through the wire and later, when the stud is loosed in the run with the bitch, copulation generally occurs quickly. You might have to hold the bitch if she is flighty or reluctant, sometimes a problem with maiden bitches.

BITCH FAILS TO CONCEIVE: Mating wasn't time correctly. Normal physiology of the reproductive system can be interrupted or delayed by disturbance, disease, or illness in any part of

the dog's body. Bitches past their prime and older tend to have a shorter mating cycle and so must be bred sooner than usual to assure pregnancy.

Assist the stud dog owner as much as possible. If the stud evidences pain when he attempts to force his penis in the vulva, check the bitch. In virgin bitches you may find a web of flesh, which runs vertically across the vaginal opening and causes pain to the dog when his penis is forced against it. This web must be broken by hooking your finger around it and pulling if breeding is to be consummated. After the tense excitement of the breeding and while the tie is in effect, speak to the bitch & stud quietly and keep them from moving until the tie is broken, then snap a leash onto her collar and take her for a slow walk.

WHELPING CHART

Bred - Jan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	28 29 30 31
Due - Mar	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Apr 1 2 3 4
Bred - Feb	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	27 28
Due - Apr	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	May 1 2
Bred - Mar	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30 31
Due - May	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Jun 1 2
Bred - Apr	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	29 30
Due - Jun	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Jul 1 2
Bred - May	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30 31
Due - Jul	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Aug 1 2
Bred - Jun	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30
Due - Aug	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Sep 1
Bred - Jul	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30 31
Due - Sep	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Oct 1 2
Bred - Aug	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	
Due - Oct	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Nov 1 2
Bred - Sep	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	29 30
Due - Nov	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Dec 1 2
Bred - Oct	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30 31
Due - Dec	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Jan 1 2
Bred - Nov	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30
Due - Jan	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Feb 1
Bred - Dec	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	28 29 30 31
Due - Feb	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	Mar 1 2 3 4