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***Artificial insemination***

***Breeding timing in dogs.***

*Sr Cathy Rood*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKkck\\_jdaDA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKkck_jdaDA)

**Manjaro Pitbull's South Africa.**

Breeding timing in dogs to maximize fertility.

Breeding timing refers to the purposeful timing of insemination during the estrus period - commonly referred to as being "in heat" - in order to maximize fertility and the chances of conception. This technique may be utilized to ensure conception in dogs.

Symptoms and types.

In order to maximize the odds of conception with properly timed breeding in dogs, it is essential to pin-point, as closely as possible, the day of ovulation for the female dog - more commonly referred to as a bitch, which is the correct terminology.

Symptoms of estrus-onset in the bitch are evidenced by swelling in the vulva and the appearance of a clear to brownish vaginal discharge.

The male animal, or stud, will show interest in the female, and she may exhibit "flagging," by which she will respond to being stroked at the genital region by elevating the tail to one side.

A vaginal exam may become necessary. A vaginal exam, however, serves as a better indicator of a fertile period than the aforementioned physical and behavioral signs.

The most reliable method of determining the ovulation cycle is via vaginal exam and vaginaoscopy in order to examine the vaginal lining and determine if the bitch is in estrus.

Hormone levels, such as LH, and progesterone, will be tested to determine when fertility levels are peaking.

Additionally, an ultrasound of the ovaries may help verify ovulation.

As mentioned above - to maximize fertility when breeding dogs, it is necessary to correctly estimate the female's day of ovulation.

Because of this, a luteinizing hormone (LH) may be given to female dogs in order to control ovulation and regulate the bitch's cycle, allowing the breeding to be timed accordingly.

The period of maximum fertility occurs approximately five to six days after the LH peaks.

Multiple breeding possibility.

In this time, multiple breeding's may be done by inseminating the bitch up to three times per week after progesterone levels rise.

Frozen semen, though less likely to work than fresh chilled semen, both may be used to inseminate the bitch.

A single insemination five or six days after LH hormones peak is common.

It is important to time insemination based on progesterone levels in order to improve chances of conception.

After initial fertility - maximizing measures have been taken, a follow up pregnancy examination can be done to determine the success of the procedure. This can be done via vaginal specimens.

The gestation period for dogs lasts +/- 63 days from ovulation.

Age related factors may make conception more difficult for older animals.