

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS



Pregnancy Emergencies

Is your dog or cat pregnant? Dogs are typically pregnant for 57-69 days and cats are pregnant for 52-74 days. Since sperm can live in the reproductive tract for up to 1 week prior to fertilization of eggs, it is difficult to pinpoint exact pregnancy dates. Here are some signs that labor is not going normally and should result in consultation with your veterinarian:

- 1) No delivery of puppy/kitten 24hrs after beginning stage 1 labor
(drop in rectal temp, shivering, nausea, nesting, panting, restlessness)
- 2) Greater than 30-60 mins active labor (pushing/contractions) with no puppy/kitten delivered
- 3) Fetal membrane visibility for greater than 15 mins with no puppy/kitten delivered
- 4) Greater than 3-4 hrs between deliveries
- 5) Greater than 24hrs to deliver entire litter of puppies or greater than 36hrs for kittens
- 6) Weak infrequent contractions
- 7) Crying or biting of the flanks and/or vulvar area
- 8) Excessive hemorrhage

Dystocia (abnormal or difficult labor) can happen to any dog or cat, but is more common in brachycephalic breeds (bulldogs, boxers, pugs) and small breed dogs. If you suspect that your dog or cat is having a difficult labor, please contact your veterinarian immediately as this can be a life threatening emergency for both mother and babies.

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