



The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club UK
Peopleton, 22nd July 2023



SUMMER HEALTH SEMINAR 2023

Part 3:
Royal Jelly in the Belly
- from Day of Mating to Date of Whelping -

VetMed Tanja Schumann, Germany



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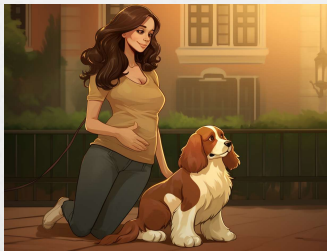
What to expect in this part ?

- Special care during the different trimesters of pregnancy
- Confirming of pregnancy
- Safe drugs to be used during pregnancy
- Deworming, tick and flea treatment or similar during pregnancy
- Preparing for Date of Whelping

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Special care during the different trimesters of pregnancy

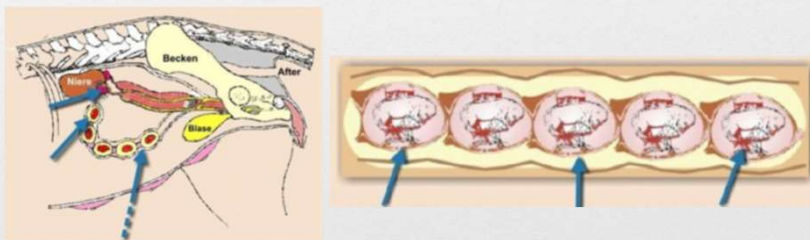
- Your Cavalier is pregnant and not ill !
- Normal pregnancy in dogs is 60-65 days after ovulation resp. 58-63 days after mating
- Cavaliers are “early whelpers”, meaning 80% of all cavaliers whelp between day **60-62 after ovulation** (confirmed by progesterone testing) resp day **58-60 after mating** (when mated at recommended day 2 after ovulation)
- Pregnancy can be parted in 3 trimester – like in humans



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1. Trimester

- The embryos travel to the uterus usually around day 7 where they are embedded in
- its lining around day 16, the foetus begins to take shape by day 22
- Between day 21 and 28 you can confirm pregnancy by careful palpating the belly – you can feel the ampulla of the puppies like a rope of pearls, best time is the morning after pee and poo
- by day 28 your vet should be able to detect fetal heartbeats and confirm pregnancy, best day for “counting” is day 26-28



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1. Trimester

- Many dogs do not show any symptoms during the first trimester
- Some symptoms may include:
 - Loss of appetite
 - enlarged nipples
 - affectionate behaviour
 - a clear vaginal discharge (around week four)
 - Decreased physical activity

Drugs:

- In this trimester puppies are not likely to get drugs giving to the mother as they are “free swimming” until day 16 without contact to the wall of the metra
- Avoid insecticides and live vaccines, Herpes Vaccination ?

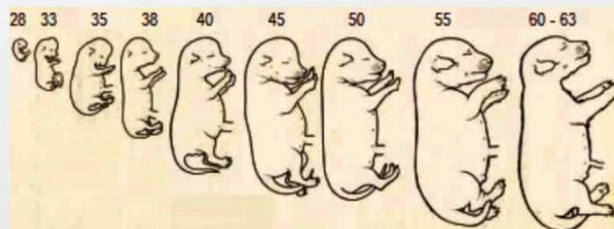
Activity / Feeding:

- Normal activity
- Normal feeding

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2. Trimester

- Fetal development moves quickly during the second month
- Eyelids form by day 32, toes are visible by day 35, claws form by day 40, coat and skeleton follow a few days later (day 45)
- Mostly belly isn't growing much as the puppies develop and not overly growing in size – most dangerous time for complications like deformations or cleft palate



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2. Trimester

- Signs of pregnancy in the bitch are much more obvious during the 2. Trimester:
 - Noticeably increased appetite
 - Weight gain of 20-to-50%
 - Increased urination
 - Behavioural changes
 - Clear, odourless vaginal discharge
 - Enlarged, firm abdomen

Drugs:

- Maybe deworming around day 45 (Fenbendazol / Milbemycin / Praziquantel / Selamectine)
- Immun stimulation drugs (Zylexis / Engystol)

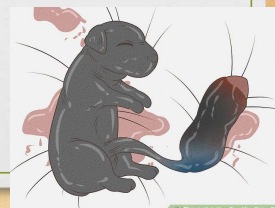
Activity / Feeding:

- Normal bis decreased activity
- Increase feeding by 20-50%, higher protein / Calcium / Phosphor (Puppy Food)
- If possible feeding more often but smaller amount

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3. Trimester

- Bitches belly is visible growing as this is the time of puppy size growing, puppy movings might be noticeable after day 50
- X-ray to get an accurate information on the number of puppies possible after day 50 – the later the better - as the fetal bones have been mineralized
- Puppy development is almost complete around day 58, which means the puppies will begin to move into whelping position in the birth canal over the last few days of the bitch's pregnancy
- Sometimes you can see pre-contractions, digging, panting around 5-7 day prior to whelping day
- Most dangerous time for Herpes Infection in non-immune bitches
- A sudden fall in rectal temperature (normally to around 37C) can help to show to give birth in the next 24hrs (only in 50% of the bitches)
- a fall in Progesterone level below 2ng or a fall of 5-8ng/ml within 24h indicates that whelping will start within 14 hours.
- 12-24hrs before birth she may start “nesting”, shivering, or releasing milk.



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3. Trimester

- Symptoms during the last few days of pregnancy in dogs:
 - Puppy Movements are noticeable
 - Waist will trim as puppies move into the birth canal
 - Appetite loss around 1-2 days prior to whelping
 - Drop in body temperature 12-to-24 hours before labour - not always consistent
 - Restless behaviour
 - Pacing, panting, shivering, or digging

Drugs:

- In bitches at risk antibiotics 1 week prior to whelping – Penicilline only and only after consulting your vet
- Herpes vaccination ?

Activity / Feeding:

- decreased activity, no sport, decrease dog contacts
- Increase feeding 50%, best would be puppy food
- raw food diet is to be avoided as it is important that calcium and phosphate levels are appropriate to ensure correct calcium absorption for milk production and bone growth and unfortunately not all raw foods will provide this balance
- feeding more often but smaller amount

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3. Trimester

Calcium:

- **Do not use calcium supplements to the mother's food** – getting too much calcium can set her up for Eclampsia (milk fever) later on
- additional calcium **can be given during whelping** or after whelping when the bitch is restless or panting (up to 500mg per puppy and day)
- Eclampsia (milk fever) is caused by a significant drop in blood calcium levels and typically occurs 2-3 weeks into lactation - dog's muscles will start stiffening and the dog may develop tremors - can lead to seizures because the calcium levels in the blood are too low
- If you suspect pre-whelping Eclampsia, seek immediate veterinary attention.



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THE END

THANK YOU !

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