



Railway Veterinary Clinic

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Thousands of unwanted dogs are put to sleep each year, so it is very important that you consider having your dog neutered to avoid unwanted pregnancies. Only breed from a dog if you can provide good homes for the puppies and if neither of the parents are carriers of serious hereditary defects.

BITCHES IN SEASON

Most bitches reach puberty when they are between 6-7 months of age, but some as early as 4 months or as late as 2 years. Nearly all breeds have two cycles per year, every 6 months. Some bitches show signs of stomach pain, become excited, and lose their appetite a few days before their heat starts.

Firstly, the vulva appears swollen and within a day there is a clear discharge, with signs of blood the next day. The discharge gets heavier then slowly decreases, ending after about 10 days. During this time the bitch becomes more alert and urinates a lot, leaving signs for her willingness to mate.

Bitches will be attracted to the dog, usually from the first day of heat, but most of them are not interested until 7-10 days into their cycle

The best day for mating would be 10-12 days after the first signs of heat.

MATING YOUR BITCH

1. Take your bitch to the vet to be examined to make sure that she is healthy and not carrying inherited diseases.
2. Find homes for the coming litter of puppies.
3. Check that a pure breed dog is registered with the kennel club, both dog and bitch.
4. Make arrangements with a reputable breeder to use his stud dog.
5. Do not let your bitch run free while in season, always exercise on a lead.
6. Take the bitch to the stud dog.
7. Make arrangements for two matings two days apart.
8. "The Tie"- dogs may need to be held together by the owners while they are tied to ensure they don't hurt themselves.
9. Calm the bitch during mating and ensure "The Tie" lasts at least 10 minutes.
10. Three weeks after mating take the bitch to a vet to confirm pregnancy.

Please also read our advice sheet on how to care for your pregnant bitch