

# DURING THE PREGNANCY

## ● **LENGTH OF PREGNANCY?**

Can vary from 56 to 70 days. Average is 63 - 64 days. If nothing has happened by the 65th day, contact the surgery.

## ● **FOOD** - Quality feeding is essential.

HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN is ideal. Use "CANINE ADULT" up to 6 weeks, then change to "CANINE PUPPY" until the pups are weaned.

## ● **EXERCISE** as much as your bitch wishes. Avoid "rough and tumbles" with other dogs.

● **GROOMING** - In late pregnancy your bitch will probably appreciate you helping her keep fresh and clean. Use Wet-Wipes daily to clean her eyes, nose, face, feet, anus and vulva. Groom her gently and encourage her to relax while you do it.

● **AS WHELPING APPROACHES** the vulva will enlarge and the mammary glands will swell with milk.

# THE BIRTH

● **1st STAGE LABOUR** - may last up to 24 hours. If prolonged, contact the surgery. The bitch will be restless, and may try to make a nest.

● **2nd STAGE LABOUR** - Birth of the pups. A greenish discharge may be seen. If nothing has happened two hours after the beginning of straining, contact the surgery. If there is a gap of more than two hours between pups, contact the surgery.

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# AFTERCARE

When she has finished whelping, the bitch normally takes a drink, possibly a feed, and will probably sleep. If you have any doubt about whether there are any pups remaining in the bitch - contact the surgery. Discourage friends and children from visiting or handling the pups in the first week of life as this will disturb the bitch, and may pass on infection.

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# *Pregnancy & Whelping in the bitch*

**A litter of pups can bring a load of happiness into your own home!  
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- see inside for a simple healthcare guide to pin on the wall.
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**TOTAL HEALTH CARE THROUGHOUT LIFE**

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**David Higginson M.R.C.V.S. John Davies M.R.C.V.S.**

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### BEFORE MATING

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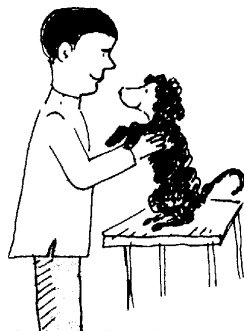
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● **Booster Vaccination** so your bitch will pass on vaccine protection to her pups.

● **Worming** with MILBEMAX.

● **High Quality Food** - Use HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN ADULT to prepare a bitch for breeding. Using this food there is no need to give any vitamin or mineral supplements.

● **Herpes Vaccination** (optional) - to protect against fading puppy disease.



### 3 - 4 WEEKS AFTER MATING

● **Health Examination by the vet & Pregnancy Diagnosis** -

In a relaxed bitch, the vet can often feel the pups at 24 to 28 days.

(Later they can't be felt as the uterus becomes softer).

● **Pregnancy Test** (optional) - ask for details

● **High Quality PUPPY Food for the bitch**

- Change to HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN PUPPY. Gradually increase the amount of food offered, and feed 3 - 4 times a day. Feed the bitch on this food until the pups are weaned.

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● **Health Examination by the vet**, including internal examination to check that all is still normal in the passageway.

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● **Prepare the whelping area** :- You will need several pieces of VETBED, some strong cardboard boxes and lots of clean unused newspapers for use as disposable bedding.

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### 12HRS - 24HRS AFTER WHELPING

● **Bring your bitch and her pups to the vet for a check-up** - The vet will check she's finished whelping, give her an injection to contract the uterus and return it to normal. Give her a antibiotic injection to prevent infection of the uterus, and check over the pups to detect any birth abnormalities or health problems.

### PUPS 3 TO 5 DAYS OLD

● **Removal of dew claws by the vet.**

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● **Worm** the bitch with MILBEMAX.

● **Worm** the pups at 2 wks, 4wks, 6wks, 8wks, 12 wks and 16wks, Use PANACUR PASTE or LIQUID up to 6wks then MILBEMAX Tablets.

● **Weaning**: start offering the pups HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN PUPPY.

Crumble the dry food at first to make it easier for the pups.

● **Eclampsia risk for the bitch!** Typically 3 weeks after whelping.

Watch out for twitching or rapid breathing as early signs of convulsions.

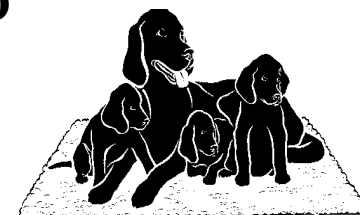
### PUPS - 6 WEEKS OLD

● **Vaccination** - start protection against Parvovirus etc.

● **Ask the vet for a discounted price for vaccinating a litter.**

● **Plan control of the bitch's next season** by the use of the hormone injection DELVOSTERONE, or neutering if not breeding again.

● **Food** - Return the bitch to HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN ADULT.



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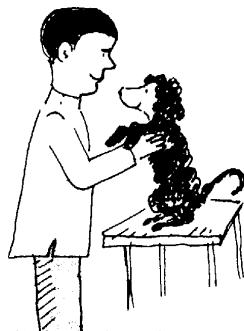
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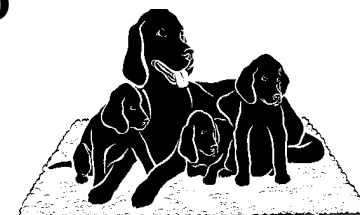
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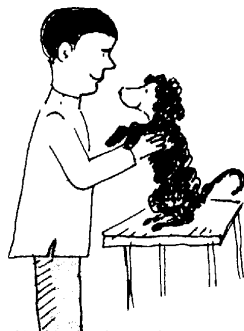
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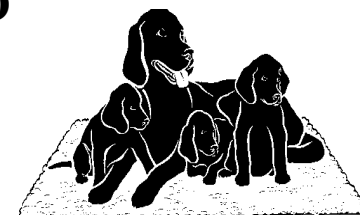
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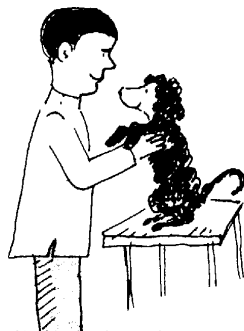
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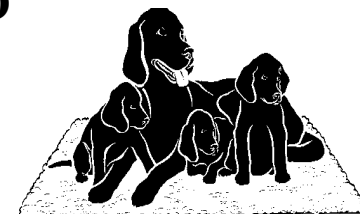
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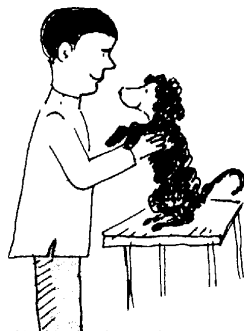
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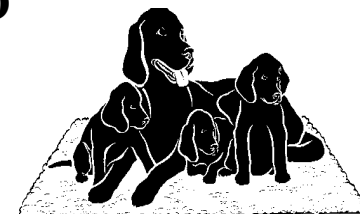
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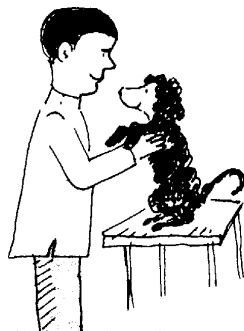
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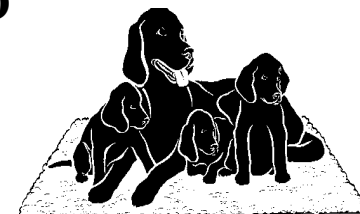
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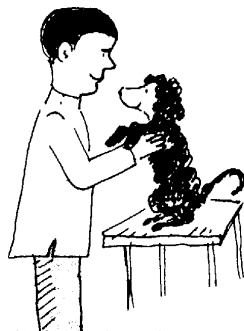
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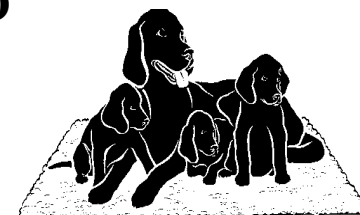
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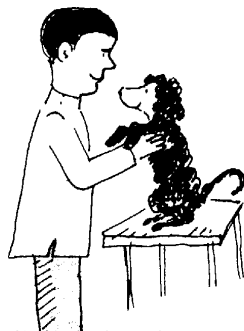
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### PUPS - 3 WEEKS OLD

● **Worm** the bitch with MILBEMAX.

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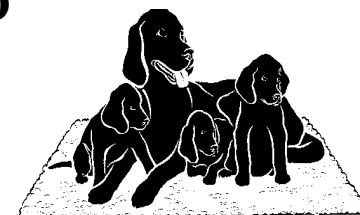
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# AFTERCARE

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# *Pregnancy & Whelping in the bitch*

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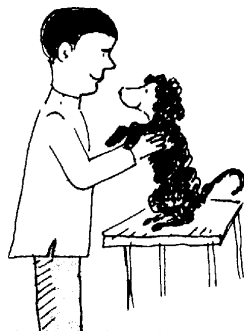
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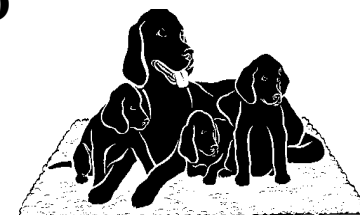
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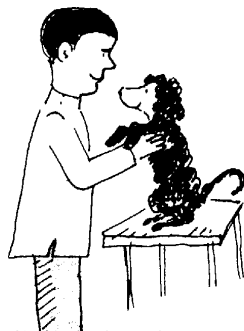
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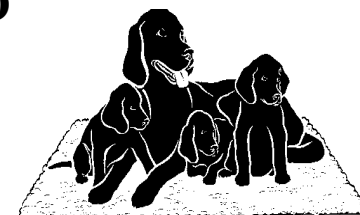
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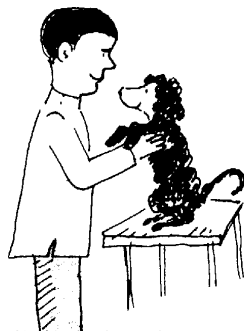
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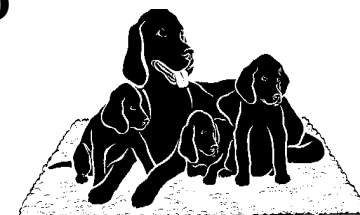
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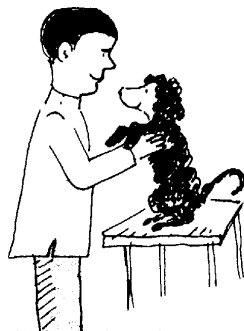
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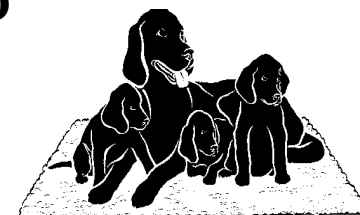
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# AFTERCARE

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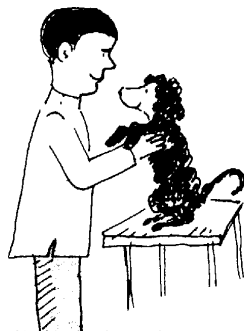
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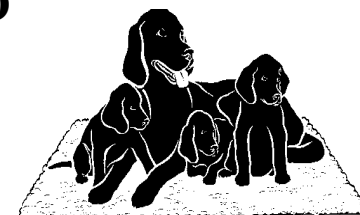
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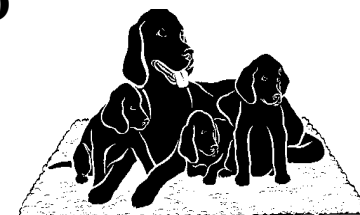
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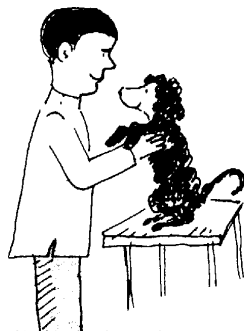
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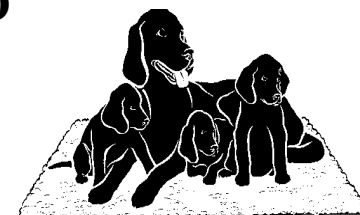
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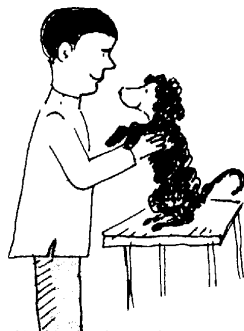
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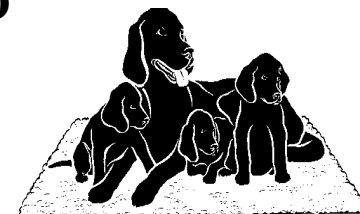
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# *Pregnancy & Whelping in the bitch*

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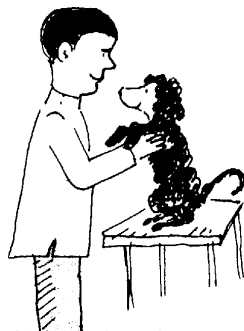
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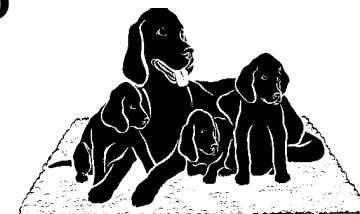
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- **Vaccination** - start protection against **Parvovirus** etc.
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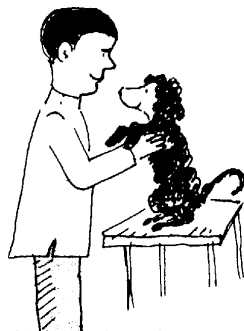
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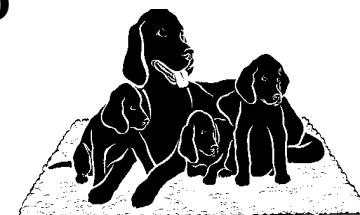
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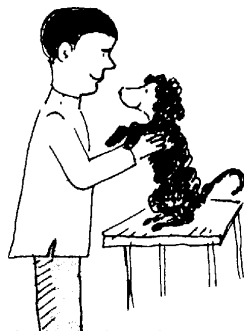
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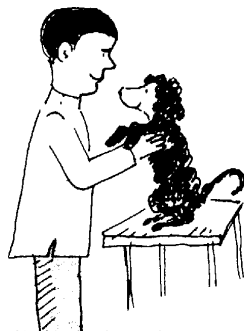
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- Change to HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN PUPPY. Gradually increase the amount of food offered, and feed 3 - 4 times a day. Feed the bitch on this food until the pups are weaned.

### 7 - 8 WEEKS AFTER MATING

● **Health Examination by the vet**, including internal examination to check that all is still normal in the passageway.

● **Booster Vaccination** if not done earlier.

● **Worming** with MILBEMAX.

● **Prepare the whelping area** :- You will need several pieces of VETBED, some strong cardboard boxes and lots of clean unused newspapers for use as disposable bedding.

● **Prepare for the birth** :- Get a supply of WELPI puppy milk, and a CATA C FEEDER so you can feed the pups if the bitch has problems.



## WHEN TO SEE THE VET

### WHELPING - The Birth - see back page

☞ IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT PROGRESS  
PHONE THE SURGERY BLACKBURN 01254 53622

● **There is always a vet on duty.** You may phone just for advice if you wish. Should your bitch need attention be prepared to take her to the vet. If possible, have a car and driver "on call" to help you. Be prepared for the possibility of a caesarian and for cost of £900 - £1200. Have credit available.

### 12HRS - 24HRS AFTER WHELPING

● **Bring your bitch and her pups to the vet for a check-up** - The vet will check she's finished whelping, give her an injection to contract the uterus and return it to normal. Give her a antibiotic injection to prevent infection of the uterus, and check over the pups to detect any birth abnormalities or health problems.

### PUPS 3 TO 5 DAYS OLD

● **Removal of dew claws by the vet.**

### PUPS - 3 WEEKS OLD

● **Worm** the bitch with MILBEMAX.

● **Worm** the pups at 2 wks, 4wks, 6wks, 8wks, 12 wks and 16wks, Use PANACUR PASTE or LIQUID up to 6wks then MILBEMAX Tablets.

● **Weaning**: start offering the pups HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN PUPPY.

Crumble the dry food at first to make it easier for the pups.

● **Eclampsia risk for the bitch!** Typically 3 weeks after whelping.

Watch out for twitching or rapid breathing as early signs of convulsions.

### PUPS - 6 WEEKS OLD

● **Vaccination** - start protection against Parvovirus etc.

● **Ask the vet for a discounted price for vaccinating a litter.**

● **Plan control of the bitch's next season** by the use of the hormone injection DELVOSTERONE, or neutering if not breeding again.

● **Food** - Return the bitch to HILL'S SCIENCE PLAN ADULT.

