

How Important is THIS Breeding?

The Brighton Animal Clinic is committed to getting your dog pregnant. Every test we do is geared toward this end.

In order for hormonal timing to be of value, the timing process needs to follow a strict course of events. With this in mind, it should be understood that this will require both a time and financial commitment on the part of the bitch owner.

Attempting to cut corners will only decrease the amount of information we have available to work with and may thereby decrease your bitch's chances of conception.

The question you need to ask yourself is this...

“How bad do I want puppies?”

This chart demonstrates the time line involved for successful breeding.

Date	Prog. value	Day
Fri	<0.2 <0.4	-d 9
Mon	0.5 0.6	-d 6
Wed	0.8 0.8	-d 4
Fri	0.85 0.85	-d 2
Sat	1.1 1.1	-d 1
Sun	Skipped Skipped	LH surge DØ
Mon	3.1 5.8	D1
T	4.5 8.0	D2
W		D3
T	8-11 15-20	D4 AI
F		D5
S		D6 AI
S		D7

Progesterone values in **bold** are for miniVidas results.

The Importance of Ovulation Timing



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Timing is Everything!

Early and accurate monitoring of the estrous cycle is imperative for breeding success. The majority of missed breedings can be directly linked to improper ovulation timing techniques. The normal, average female has a proestrous period that lasts about 8 days followed by an estrous period of approximately the same number of days. It is important to note, however, that not all females are “normal and average.” The traditional estrogen mediated signs of a “ready bitch” such as changes in discharge color, acceptance flagging, even cornified vaginal cytology provide only a very small and sometimes misleading picture of where the bitch is in her season. These events can occur as early as 10 days before the actual fertile period and vary greatly from female to female. It is only when we combine these traditional signs along with information provided by hormonal assay timing that we greatly improve conception rates and eliminate the “guess factor”.

Here at the Brighton Animal Clinic, we understand the importance of a well-managed breeding and strive to provide the most current and successful diagnostic methods and information to assist you in your

breeding program. This pamphlet will provide some basic information on ovulation timing plus explain the results of our most

commonly used hormonal assay tests.

Please feel free to call us with questions.

What are we looking for?

The hormones that interact to comprise the canine estrous cycle are numerous and complex. Our primary focus is on two of these hormones:

Progesterone and Luteinizing Hormone (LH). It is the interpretation of the quantity of these hormones circulating in the bitch’s blood that provide us with the most accurate information regarding ovulation.

- With the beginning of the estrous cycle, progesterone begins to rise.
- Just shortly before ovulation takes place, the LH level makes a surge and remains elevated in the blood stream for only a 12 to 24 hour time frame.
- At the same time that the LH level surges, the progesterone value makes a significant rise. This point in the cycle is considered Day Zero and marks the key event from which we base all of our breeding decisions.

From Day Zero it takes approximately 48 hours for ovulation to occur and then another 48 to 72 hours still for the oocytes to mature.

These mature eggs are then viable for an additional 48 to 72 hours.

Testing Methods

At the Brighton Animal Clinic, we are fortunate to be able to offer progesterone testing with our in-house miniVidas machine that provides results in just under an hour. LH testing is not as commonly practiced as in the past, however, is still available by using the Synbiotics Status LH in-house test kit. Progesterone tests are typically run every other to every third day and LH tests require blood to be drawn daily and at the same hour to pinpoint the surge that, again, only lasts for 12 to 24hours.

When to Start Testing?

You should call our office on the first day you notice that your bitch is in season. For maiden bitches, especially, it is important that we see them right away. This does not necessarily mean that we will immediately begin hormonal testing but it is a good idea to get a baseline exam early in the cycle to confirm “Day 1” and start the data gathering process. Remember, ovulation has been known to occur as early as day 3 of the cycle.

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