

## NATURAL WHELPING HANDY HINTS

Consult your veterinary surgeon about what vaccines are necessary and safe for a bitch either about to be mated or who is in whelp. You may like to delay Parvo shots until the bitch is actually in whelp, then have her vaccinated 14 days before she is due. A dead vaccine is given. You can use Homeopathic Dog vaccine at this time if you wish in place of Parvo shots

No artificial contraception at any time, unless the bitch is accidentally mated, and even then consider your actions with care.

Food – raw meaty bones, meat, vegetables, fruit. Add if desired, wheat germ, molasses, spirulina, apple cider vinegar and kelp. The health of puppies is dependent on how well the bitch is fed during pregnancy. Good food in = good puppies out.

First day of heat start Vit E 100 – 200 mg (or Selenium E), and Zinc 50 – 75mg, one of each twice daily for three days, then one daily until after whelping. Also Folic acid 5mg one a day until the pups are three weeks old. In humans folic acid is taken from three months prior to conception and then up to delivery. Ground up pumpkin seeds are a good source of zinc. (Richard Pitcarin, Natural Health for cats and dogs)

Raspberry leaf tablets, daily until after whelping.  
Especially in bitches with a known history of uterine atony.

Regular exercise is a great medicine for pregnant bitches also.

Avoid antibiotics and scans unless absolutely necessary during the bitches pregnancy. This takes the strain off the bitch, and her system.

To initiate labor, use Caulophyllum 200 one dose on the day she is due to whelp, this will only induce labor if the puppies are ready. Giving Caulophyllum too often or during pregnancy may cause false contractions. If the puppies are ready to come she will begin labor and three or four more doses will keep the labor going. (Repeat hourly for up to six doses.)

Gelsemium 200 if Caulophyllum does not respond, this will eliminate anxiety and the lack of response from the bitch. Repeat hourly for up to six doses.

I would not advise the use of Tuberculinum, Distemperinum, or Sulphur/Calc Carb powders unless they are specifically indicated. We do not know the effects of homeopathic remedies that are prescribed for prophylaxis. Homeopathic medicine has its scientific roots in treating like with like.

If the animal's condition does not improve, or you are concerned about the progress of the bitches labour consult your vet.