

## Dog Breeding beginners Guide

### **How Old Does a Dog need to be in order to breed for the first time?**

A responsible breeder will wait until their dog is at least 18-24 months of age. Really this depends on the individual dog, we typically suggest second heat or 18 months whichever is later. We will go over why skipping to many heats is dangerous further down. Your male dog should be around 18 months of age as well. You can in fact get all health testing done once your dog is 1 year old. So now days it is acceptable to breed as long as your dogs tested and is mentally and physically mature. **NEVER** breed a female on her first heat!

### **How Old Is To Old to breed your Dam?**

In general, we support back to back breeding once your female is of breeding age. A responsible breeder will never breed a female again if they have any complications ( c section; unless common in the breed like frenchies or bulldogs. Severe mastitis, struggling to be a mom, not bouncing back or in general not coping with being a mother). If your breeding back to back and your dam has her first litter at 20-26months of age, then we suggest spaying if any of the following occur:

- after their 4<sup>th</sup> litter
- any complications arise (feel free to PM us for our opinion on your dogs individual situation)
- mom struggles mentally or physically
- small litter size for breed average or moms average (IE If your female normally has 8-10 pups but has 3 on her third litter then she should be spayed)
- any genetic deformities arise
- any bad temperaments Arise

So ideally your dam should be spayed and retired no later then 6 years of age, even if your choosing to skip cycles.

A males age at time of breeding is less relevant as they are not the ones carrying and raising the babies so breeding is far easier on them, and their fertility is less likely to decline until around 9-10 years of age. Though we personal have never bred a male past 7.

### **What is the prime time to breed?**

The prime time when discussing dog breeding is the few years starting from 18 months of age until her puppy count sharply declines, usually around her 5th or 6th year of age.

This is the best time to breed a female since her fertility is at an all-time high thanks to high progesterone levels. Her body is also able to cope with the tiring pregnancy and draining delivery of the puppies followed by their nursing. A first-time pregnant dog will inevitably struggle a little bit but she will get better at it over time, it's Important to always make sure your prepared to help your dam every step of the way and realize you will lose a lot of sleep for the 10 weeks the pups are here.

### **What day of the heat cycle should a female be bred?**

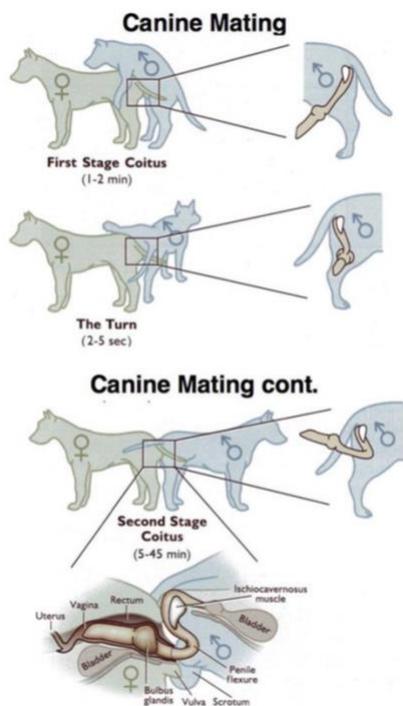
It's different for every female, but typically when a female is ready she will flag(move her tail to the side and poke her butt in the air). On average this happens on day 11-16. It's suggested to only allow 3 matings, one time a day for three days. This way you don't have to much "over use" of the males semen, and your not risking damaging their parts by allowing to many ties. As well as you don't have eggs fertilized a few days after the others resulting in different gestational development and higher mortality.

If you are using stud service we suggest a blood progesterone test with your vet prior to meeting with the stud.

### What is a tie In dog breeding?

When you put your two dogs together they will eventually mate if the female is ready and receptive. The breeding or mating process can be lengthy and follows several steps, one of which is the tie. It's also the one people expect the least and are the most scared of.

- 1) First the stud will mount her and hump her, eventually penetrate her
- 2) Once the males penis is correctly inserted (note slip matings do happen which is when penetration happens but no tie results) he will in simple terms "become stuck" to her and this is because the bulbus is inserted and the females vagina is clenched around it. It may take the stud a few minutes to "turn" himself which is when they will be butt to butt. And sometimes you do have to gently help him turn.



It's important to note that during the tie, it is completely common for females to whine and scream or even try to bite the stud. This is why you must be there to help control and calm the stud or dam if needed to avoid injury. I always recommend having two people present for the tie, one for the stud and one for the dam.

It's normal for the tie to last 5-45 minutes just be patient, **DO NOT EVER** try to pull dogs apart. When the tie is complete you will see a gush of fluid (this is the Semen) and is normal if there is some blood as that's typically from the females heat cycle. It is important to make sure the females vulva is normal after the tie, and does not have any protrusions. As well as making sure the studs penis looks ok, and goes completely back in the sheath. If it doesn't sugar and vaseline can help it retreat.

### **How long is a dog pregnant for?**

The gestation period in dogs lasts between 58 and 68 days, with an average of 63 days or roughly two months. The breed, size, and type of your female dog does not matter; your bitch should still give birth to her litter of puppies in the aforementioned timeframe.

Obviously, a vet should monitor your female's gestation just to know how many puppies she is carrying and to make sure she is perfectly coping with her pregnancy. Closer to the delivery day, your bitch will suddenly drop her rectal temperature which will be a sign of imminent labor.

### **Choosing the dam and sire**

The first important choice you must make is choosing an appropriate bitch and stud. You must consider their health, temperament and registering.

In order to try to avoid an unhealthy litter, you want to choose a mother and father who are minimally affected by any health conditions. Consider HUA, hip dysplasia, and deafness as these are prominent in Dalmatians. You should also conduct a health check physically on both candidates and ask for vet checks of them and their genetic lines. This can prevent genetic ailments from being passed on. Also consider their behavioral traits, both positive and negative. This can range from aggression to trainability, consider what traits you wish to dominate and which to avoid. When choosing a breeding pair there is a lot to consider, your male and female should compliment each other in every aspect: health, physical, mental, pedigree. AVOIDING inbreeding is vastly important their litters COI should be less than 5% anything higher and you are inbreeding which poses even more health concerns for the litter. Both parents should also be fully akc registered (see our section on limited vs full). Ideally in my opinion it is best to have at least one parent be LUA (see our all about LUA section) to further the LUA gene-pool and work towards breeding HUU out of our breed.

### **Birthing Issues and concerns**

Although this breed does not suffer from specific or regular birthing issues, it is important to consider those that can happen:

- C-sections: in our belief if this happens we suggest spaying your female at the same time, to avoid another c section in her future. C sections can cost roughly 1800-5000\$ and they can be life threatening for both mom and pups. It is important to have a savings set aside for emergency funds of at least \$5k before you breed your dog. There are many reasons a c section can occur but what's important is to always seek medical care if you have concerns or your dam is not doing well. We suggest having your vet on stand by or at least aware of your dogs due date ahead of time in case an emergency occurs. It's important to also prepare yourself to nurse the puppies on and off while moms recovering as c sections take a lot out of them. Newborn puppies need to be fed every 2 hours so make sure you are prepared for this possibility. Here is a video of an emergency c section: [https://youtu.be/G8iyvtuE\\_G0](https://youtu.be/G8iyvtuE_G0)
- Stillborn puppies: while we as breeders pray that every puppy is healthy and happy, stillborns are fairly common especially in large litters.
- Cord wrapped around puppies neck
- Stuck puppy: this one is a bit complex, I never had this issue besides 2 times, the first time we called my vet and he put his hand up and maneuvered the puppy and out he came. And the second time I did it myself after my vet had taught me with his approval and guidance. This is something you should ask your vet to advise you on and show you how to do so that you do it correctly. If you are unable to successfully maneuver the puppy yourself you need to seek veterinary care immediately. Here is a video of a vet getting a stuck puppy free: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEvLUHQHlck>

- Fatigue in mom: it sometimes takes several hours for a mom to have all her pups, it's perfectly normal for there to be a pause of 1-3 hours in between puppies as long as mom is not stressed or acting strange let her rest up.
- Moms pelvis too small: this is important to note that it's important to have a X-ray done to check skull sizes vs moms pelvis to ensure they will safely deliver

Helping your dog give birth video: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=YhOFBkNd988>

**Puppy complications to prepare for:**

This section will probably be fairly long so bare with me. We want to cover as much as possible so that you are prepared:

- Stillborn
- Fading puppy syndrome
- Hypothermia
- Dehydration
- Hypoglycemia(low blood sugar)

There is probably an entire page full of things I could mention, but bottom line is a lot can go wrong so it's best to always have a vet you trust to call and ask questions.