

North Paws

Puppy's journey from single cell to new-born.

Many will not think about foetal development when getting a puppy however, I find this a fascinating topic and want to share these pre-natal developments with you.

The length of a bitch's pregnancy averages 63 days, from ovulation. Having a scan at four weeks post mating we are able to measure the size of visible sacks, giving a rough due date.

I will try to explain the development puppies go through in uterus, these are all calculated from the date of first mating:

- Day 5-11: sperm has met egg, fertilisation has taken place and now they will look for their home for the next few weeks
- At two weeks: cells have developed
- Day 15: internal organs develop
- Day 17: nervous system has developed followed by their head and body
- Day 18: placenta has developed
- Day 21: placenta is formed
- Day 23: spine and faces begin to form
- Day 28: jaw and skull form
- Day 30: jaw and skull fully formed
- Day 31: growth of sensory hairs on chin, eyebrows and nose
- Day 33: digits grow, nose, ribs and leg bones form. All major organs are now completely formed
- Day 36: rapid growth is taking place, reproductive system develops
- Week 5: sex organs fully developed
- Day 44: grow starts to grow, pigmentation develops and eyelids are formed
- Day 46: pelvis develops
- Day 58: lungs develop, viable puppies could now be born

The process from fertilized eggs to new-born puppy in 2 months is a remarkable phenomenon, this whole process is called:

The Pre-Natal Stage:

Research into Epi-genetics has shown that puppies bodies will begin to take notes on their genetics from conception, via mums hormones. Therefore, we believe that the friendly, non-stressful environment we provide our girls, along with lots of physical contact, produces puppies who are calmer and more accustomed to be handled.

07860 120 862

northpaws.co.uk

katiennorthpaws@outlook.com