



# Zimzala K9 Training

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## Weekly Pregnancy Progression

### Week 6

#### FOETUSES

From day 42 the pace changes, as your bitch enters the third and final phase of gestation. The foetus is developing fast now. Claws will be developing, the skeleton begins to solidify, and the foetus will gain weight rapidly. The foetus starts to look more and more like a puppy, with toes, nails and whiskers. The organs have completely developed, along with its skin colour!! At the six-week mark, the foetus has sex organs and begins to develop into either a male or a female pup. You can detect the heartbeat via auscultation (heart doppler) The foetus's heartbeat is much faster than the mums, thus easy to detect and makes a whooshing sound. The foetuses already exceed 6-7 cm. You will notice that the bitch's abdomen is becoming significantly larger. The colour of her nipples will change again, becoming darker.



As a result, your dog's nutritional requirements will change, as she now requires a diet with higher energy, protein and mineral content. It may seem contradictory, but you may well observe a drop in her appetite as her distended abdomen may make eating normal meals harder for her. Getting her to eat the right food is essential and offering her several smaller meals throughout the day, instead of 2 larger meals, may also help if you find she is not eating enough to maintain a good body condition.

It is also a good time to prepare and introduce her to her whelping box.