



Zimzala K9 Training

Zimzala Canine Estate
Broadway Boulevard, R44
Stellenbosch, 7614
amanda@zimzala.co.za
082 579 2831

Weekly Pregnancy Progression

Week 7

FOETUSES

Week 7 is when the puppies' first hairs appear and the bones fully mineralize, ossify and the skeleton fully develops. If you are interested in having an x-ray done, to count the number of pups, this is the time to do it. Those little skeletons will show up well on an x-ray or ultrasound. Knowing the exact number could be helpful at the time of birth. The radiography will also help detect any possible problems or complications in the pregnancy.



Around this time point the bitch may seem to lose her appetite. Encourage her to continue eating with soft or appetizing food. Another symptom you may notice around is further swelling of the dog's breasts and emergence of some milk. The mum to be will also lose the hair around her nipples, developing a bald spot on her stomach. This will help the pups to find the nipples when they need to feed.

Parasites are a concern, as they have the potential to infect the puppies at birth. It is therefore essential to make an appointment with your vet to have your bitch wormed. The vet will advise you on which product to use.

You don't want to be caught unprepared. This is the time to set up everything on your check list and prepare the place for the birth and where mum and pups will be staying for those first precious weeks. The chosen place must be quiet and removed from the hustle and bustle of the household. Don't forget that the room must be kept warm, as new-born's need heat. The floor

ZIMZALA FLATCOATED RETRIEVERS PREGNANCY PROGRESSION WEEK7

must be easy to clean. The mother and pups will need to use this place for a few weeks, well away from any excitement so as not to disturb or cause her undue stress.

I ensure that there is a bed for me too, as I like to keep close to my dam and pups, as not to miss any moments where she may need my assistance. Thus, the whelping box will be placed next to my bed, where I can easily keep an eye from above, without disturbing mum and pups.

The clock is ticking and there are such exciting times ahead!!