



Zimzala K9 Training

Zimzala Canine Estate
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Weekly Pregnancy Progression

Week 9

NEARLY PUPPIES

The bitch is looking for a quiet place to make her nest. In the final days before whelping, you'll see her body shape changing. Her stomach should become more pronounced, her teats should be filling with milk (if you squeeze gently, droplets will probably appear. Her vulva, in particular will dilate and the pelvic ligaments will relax so that the puppies have enough room to pass through.

By instinct, the future mother will seek out a quiet place to make her nest and will seem on edge. This shouldn't worry you. It is normal behaviour for a bitch preparing a safe space for her babies. If you haven't yet done so, set up the whelping nest in the selected place, well away from any excitement and make it easy for her to reach. It's a good idea to line the box so that she's properly insulated from the floor. You can cover them with towels/blankets or sheets that can be easily changed for once the pups are born. The amount of fluid released with each birth is remarkable.



Unless you think this will cause too much stress, it is advisable to wash your bitch so that she can give birth to her puppies in the most hygienic conditions possible. If you have not done so yet, trim the hair under her tail, you can clear the area around the vulva using round tipped scissors, and clean up her abdomen.

ZIMZALA FLATCOATED RETRIEVERS PREGNANCY PROGRESSION WEEK 9

To avoid being taken by surprise at the onset of whelping you can take her rectal temperature three times a day. A drop of around one degree as compared to the average of the previous days occurs within a few hours, 24 or 48 hours, prior to whelping.

By now your room should be ready, ensure you have enough bed covers, enough to change regularly. All required to manage the birth and litter should be in place awaiting the big event;

- Note book
- Pen
- Puppy scale
- Puppy markers - collars
- Disinfectant
- Tooth floss
- Scissor
- Blankets and towels
- Room thermometer – the first week you want to keep the temperature around 30°C
- Puppy milk, bottles/feeders
- Energy supplies for your bitch if needed during whelping
- Lead and torch for that pre delivery garden walks
- Hot water bottles or heat pad and a suitable tub to place puppies in when next puppy is being delivered
- Heater if needed

You will be able to feel those pups move about, kicking and turning, doing their daily exercise in preparation for clawing their way into our world!!