



Western Hills Animal Hospital

www.WesternHillsPets.com

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PREGNANCY CARE

1. Take daily rectal temperatures.
 - Normal temperature 102 degrees (range 101.5-102.5).
 - Temp will drop to 98-99 degrees within 12-24 hours of birthing.
2. Other signs of whelping:
 - Make a nest.
 - Start acting uncomfortable.
 - Go off feed.
3. Labor:
 - Bearing down / lying on side.
 - Water breaks.
 - If in labor for 3 hours or longer without having a pup **call vet!**
4. Birthing process:
 - 60% of puppies come head first.
 - 40 % of puppies come rear legs first.
 - Generally they deliver 2 puppies in close proximity (10-15 minutes apart); then take 1-2 hour break.
 - Can help – gentle traction when part of puppy is hanging out
 - Each puppy has its own placenta.
 - *Clean placenta off – cut placenta cord leaving 1 ½-2 inches and dip end in iodine.
 - Puppies need to be in an environment of 95 degrees for the first week, 90 degrees for the second week and 85 degrees for the third week.
 - Make sure mom spends the majority of time with the puppies.
5. Bring mom in within 24 hours after whelping for clean up shot (oxytocin).
6. Wean puppies at 6 weeks of age.
 - Some bitches wean them much earlier.
 - At 3 weeks of age puppies are able to eat puppy food.

FEEDING MOM

1. Start feeding a puppy food about two weeks before whelping.
2. Keep mom on puppy food while lactating.
3. Provide plenty of fresh water.