



no more Unwanted puppies

Taking proper care of a litter of puppies is a big job for you and your dog. Somewhere between 6 and 12 months old, your female dog will become old enough to be at risk of becoming pregnant. When this happens she comes 'On heat'. A bitch on heat will swell up and bleed for about 10 days.

The biggest mistake people make - Is in thinking that when the bleeding stops, their dog is safe from becoming pregnant. This is not true! Your dog is actually most at risk of getting pregnant when the bleeding has slowed down and for the first few days after it stops.

If you don't want your dog to get pregnant, it is best to take her to the vet for a desexing operation before she comes onto heat. The next best option is to keep her confined for 20 days from when her bleeding starts. If you count day 1 as the first day of bleeding, then days 7 to 15 is the greatest risk of pregnancy period. However every dog is different so it's best to keep her where an undesexed male dog can't get to her for all 20 days. On average a non-desexed female dog will come on heat twice a year.

If you also own an entire male dog (one that has not been desexed) then it is a good idea to ask a friend to mind him for this time. If he stays home during this

period there is a good chance he will become agitated, refuse to eat and lose condition. There is also the risk he will become involved in dogfights when other roaming male dogs come visiting.

The vet can also provide another short-term solution by giving your bitch a contraceptive injection. This can keep your dog off heat from 3 months to a year. How long depends on what type of contraceptive is used and what part of her cycle she is in when the vet gives her the needle.

Even though male dogs can't get pregnant, it is still a good idea to get them desexed. A desexed male dog makes a better pet because he is more likely to stay at home with you. He is also less likely to get injured in dogfights or hit by a car if he is safely inside his own territory of your garden.

If you want to get a puppy from your own dog, you also need to think about who is going to take the other puppies she will have. Too often there are not enough owners to go around and the unwanted puppies end up as skinny, mangy dogs on the streets. These dogs with no owners to feed and look after them become a nuisance to everyone else. It's a sad life for them and it's not their fault.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. JO

THURSDAY ISLAND: 14 & 15 Sept.

Contact Torres Shire Council for bookings

Ph. 4069 1336

CAIRNS: Dr. Jo's mobile service

Phone. 0408 779 820

Jo Squire Mobile Vet
0408 779 820