



Auckland Veterinary Services Limited

Client Fact Sheet #75
Mismating/Misalliance

What do you do in the following situation?

Your bitch is in season and has either got out for a period of time or has been in contact with your own stud dog. You may or may not have witnessed a mating but either way this is not a mating that you have planned or wanted.

Step One

Isolate the bitch from all male dogs until her season has finished. This makes sure there is no possibility of another mismating taking place.

There is no point rushing the bitch off to the vet to see if she has been mated. The way of trying to determine if a mating has taken place is to collect some of the fluid from the lining of the bitch's vagina and look at it under the microscope.

If sperm are present you can be confident that a mating has taken place. If no sperm are evident, a mating may or may not have taken place. The reason for being unable to find sperm may be that there are none present, i.e. a mating did not in fact take place or that there was in fact a mating but that no sperm have been recovered.

Whether a mating has taken place or not, your next step is going to be the same.

Pregnancy can be reliably diagnosed at twenty-eight days either by palpation or ultrasound examination. A medical abortion may be performed earlier than this but it is our experience that more than half the bitches presented, at this time, are not pregnant.

If at 28 days the bitch is not pregnant, you do not have to do anything further, apart from trying to ensure that another mismating does not occur next time the bitch comes into season.

If she is pregnant then you have a number of options:

1. **Spay her.**

This will lead to the loss of both the bitch's future breeding ability and your choice of continuing to show her. The reason you will be unable to show the bitch is that at present the New Zealand Kennel Club does not allow the showing of desexed dogs in championship shows.

2. **Surgical Abortion**

Wait until the bitch is six weeks pregnant and carry out a surgical abortion. At this stage the foetuses are large enough to be easily removed but not developed enough to survive outside of the uterus. This surgery is effectively a caesarian with no surviving pups.

3. **Let the bitch have the pups**

Letting the bitch have the pups takes a lot more out of the bitch as the foetuses are fully developed and she has to go through labour. If the litter is a large one and she raises all of the pups, the bitch will normally lose a lot of condition due to the requirements placed on her by the pups. There is also a burden to the dog population as these puppies may take the homes of other puppies requiring a home.

4. **Medical Abortion**

This treatment uses drugs to force the bitch to abort the puppies. Giving Injections, usually two, one day apart is how this procedure is performed. This can be done either straight after the mating or right up to 7 weeks after mating. The type of drugs which we currently use is an anti progesterone drug. Progesterone is a hormone that is required to maintain pregnancy.

The anti progesterone drug 'blocks' the progesterone therefore making it impossible for the pregnancy to continue.

At four weeks after mating or 10 days after the drugs have been administered, the bitch may require an ultrasound scan to verify the abortion has taken place. There are no recognised detrimental effects on the future breeding ability of the bitch.

There are several other drugs, which are used to induce abortion. We do not recommend using these drugs as some have detrimental effects on the future breeding ability of the bitch.

Please ask one of the support staff to provide more accurate estimates of how much the above options will cost. (Spay and abortion costs only). The above are the options available to you.

If you have any further questions please talk to one of our experienced staff or phone us on 818 5697.