

Here is a helpful summary you can use to complete your AKC Breeder Education Test. When you pass your test, AKC will send you an exclusive AKC Breeder Education Certificate.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR BREEDING

1.
 - Know and understand that breeding is a commitment
 - Know your breed

BREED TO IMPROVE

2. Evaluate, keeping your breed standard in mind

UNDERSTAND THE COMMITMENT

3. Consider your responsibilities as a breeder: vet care, whelping costs, time, vaccinations for puppies, and finding homes for puppies

CHOOSE A SUITABLE MATE

4.
 - Make sure sire/dam are AKC registered
 - Consider breed standard and temperament
 - Conduct health tests recommended by parent clubs

KNOW YOUR GENETICS

5.
 - Know the genetic problems that affect your breed
 - Canine Genetics Basics
 - Understand how genetic defects are inherited

GENETIC BASICS

- Dogs normally have 39 pairs of chromosomes on which genes are located
- Major abnormalities in chromosome number and structure can produce serious defects
- Diseases that follow a dominant pattern of inheritance need only one abnormal gene to pass along to their offspring
- Diseases that follow a recessive pattern of inheritance present two abnormal genes
- Dogs with one abnormal gene would appear normal but are carriers of the disease
- Polygenic disorders result from the cumulative action of a number of different genes
- Chromosomal anomalies -- defects in chromosome number and structure -- can also cause genetic diseases

FINALIZE STUD CONTRACT

6. Work out a contract with the owner of the stud dog before breeding takes place.

PERFORM PRE-BREEDING HEALTH CHECKS

Ensure good health from both sire and dam

- Screening for genetic problems
- Pre-breeding tests
 - Pre-breeding physical
 - Up-to-date vaccinations
 - Brucellosis – an infectious bacterial disease that can cause sterility or spontaneous abortion in affected dogs
- Regular exercise and good nutrition

8. MATING

- Understand the cycle of a healthy brood bitch
- Use best practices for natural mating

9. PREGNANCY AND WHELPING PREPARATION



STUDY GUIDE

AKC BREEDING BASICS

MATING BASICS

- Bitches have their first season (estrus) after six months of age, although it can occur as late as 18 months to two years of age
- Bitches should not be bred during their first season
- Seasons recur at intervals of approximately six months until late in life

NATURAL MATING

- Most dogs are first bred between the 10th and 14th day after the start of the season
- Breed dogs every other day for a total of two or three matings

PREGNANCY AND WHELPING PREPARATION

Watch for Signs of Pregnancy

- Canine gestation lasts approximately 63 days (A veterinarian can usually confirm a pregnancy through abdominal palpitation at 28 days or by using ultrasound or X-rays)

Provide Proper Nutrition for your Pregnant Bitch

- Increase food as her body weight increases, beginning about the last five weeks before whelping

Accustom Your Bitch to the Whelping Box

Be Alert for Signs of Labor

- Lower appetite
- May start building a "nest"
- Shortly before whelping, the bitch's body temperature will drop to 99 degrees or lower

10. PUPPIES ARE BORN

- Each puppy emerges in its own placental membrane, or sac
- Remove so the puppy can breathe; keep track of how many placentas are delivered and ensure that the number matches the number of puppies because a retained placenta may cause problems
- Take over if the bitch neglects to remove a sac or sever an umbilical cord

11. CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN IF COMPLICATIONS ARISE

12. KEEP YOUR PUPPIES WARM, FED AND CLEAN

- Keep environment warm : 85 and 90 degrees for the first five days of life
- First milk produced by the bitch after whelping is called colostrum

13. REGISTER YOUR LITTER WITH THE AKC SOON AFTER WHELPING

14. WEAN PUPPIES FROM THEIR MOTHER

15. SENDING YOUR PUPS TO THEIR NEW HOMES

16. ENCOURAGE NEW OWNERS TO REGISTER THEIR PUPPY WITH THE AKC

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