

FALSE PREGNANCY

FALSE PREGNANCY IS A COMPLICATED HORMONAL/EMOTIONAL/ ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM. TREATMENT WITH DRUGS IS OFTEN NOT SUFFICIENT BY ITSELF AND HERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT THE OWNER CAN DO AT HOME TO BREAK UP THE COSY, AFFECTIONATE ENVIRONMENT WHICH REINFORCES THE HORMONAL ASPECT OF THIS CONDITION

- 1) Avoid showing signs of physical affection towards your dog. If she seeks affection, a pat on the head is as much as you should allow. Do not show her too much attention. Do not let her sit with you. We advise taking her on long walks which occupy her without physical involvement.
- 2) If she has a special bond with another dog or cat in the household, they should be separated if at all possible. A bitch who feels rejected by her owner may transfer her affections to another animal which she has previously ignored.
- 3) Decrease the size of her meals by up to 50%. This is especially important if she is producing milk, as milk production will stop faster if she is fed enough for her own requirements and no more.
- 4) If she 'nests' or scratches the carpet in a particular spot, she should be prevented from gaining access to that area by moving furniture or covering it. She may change to another area, but restricting her breaks up the behaviour pattern and it is less likely to be as strong if it reappears at all.
- 5) If she has a bed or blanket in a particular place, change its position every day. Do not let her think of any place as 'safe' or 'home'. If she has a blanket, change it for paper bedding.
- 6) Remove all toys, especially squeaky rubber ones and any inanimate objects she is attracted to. These can include balls, cushions, draught excluders, bones etc. This stops her nesting with these as her 'babies'.

OWNERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT REPEATED FALSE PREGNANCIES PUT THEIR BITCH AT HIGH RISK OF DEVELOPING PYOMETRITIS. THIS IS A SERIOUS ACCUMULATION OF PUS IN THE WOMB WHICH IS FATAL IF UNTREATED. BITCHES WHO HAVE HAD A FALSE PREGNANCY SHOULD BE SPAYED TO STOP THIS CONDITION DEVELOPING



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