



## C Section Protocol

We require all breeders to schedule an initial consult to establish a client/patient relationship with Dr. Liberman. Ideally, we can set this up prior to breeding so we can go over any questions regarding the process and timing. This consultation **MUST** be done prior to scheduling a c-section. We do require that all breeding animals be up to date on Rabies and DA2PP. Please schedule your c-section as soon as you know your bitch is pregnant so that we can arrange our schedule appropriately.

Breeding services we offer:

- Pre breeding physical exam
- Vaginal cytology
- Progesterone testing (results in 15 minutes)
- AI (surgical or intravaginal)
- Ultrasound
- Radiographs for puppy counts
- Scheduled c-sections

Prior to C-section:

- Start checking your bitches' temperature rectally, twice daily, the week of her due date. The temperature normally drops to about 98 degrees within 24-48 hours.
- Reverse progesterone testing: this test checks when the progesterone drops to help guide us when the safest time for a c-section is. This will be done the morning of the scheduled due date but can be started a couple days ahead if there is a concern the bitch may deliver early.
- Ultrasound: we always do an ultrasound and temperature check in conjunction with the reverse progesterone to make sure the puppies appear to be fully developed. We check the heart rate and kidney/intestinal development. When we can see the intestines moving and clear kidneys on the ultrasound, we know the puppies are full term.
- Let us know right away if your bitch is showing any signs of labor ASAP! This includes temp drop, nesting, contractions, not eating/vomiting.

Day of the C-section:

- Please arrive at 8:15 AM
- Most bitches' will not eat the morning of their delivery and may be nauseous/vomit. Please make sure they always have water available to stay hydrated.

- Once we have confirmed the reverse progesterone and ultrasound show that the bitch is ready for surgery, we will have you sign a surgery release form.
- Please be ready to pick up your litter 2 hours after drop off. It is very important that they be picked up in a timely manner as we have a staff member sitting with them at all times while they are in the hospital. Bring a basket with towels and/or blankets at pick up, to take the puppies home in.
- We will send you text messages updates with a puppy count/gender count after all the puppies have been delivered. We will also try to send you a picture. We will update you again when the bitch is out of surgery and give you a 30-minute heads up for pickup.
- We try to make sure all puppies have latched on to nurse before discharge. If there is no milk, we will tube feed them serum from a healthy dog to guarantee they get antibodies that are found in colostrum.

#### C-section Procedure:

- We do not give pain meds/premeds prior to surgery for the puppies' safety.
- We place an IV catheter and give IV fluids throughout the surgery
- We shave and start scrubbing the abdomen before anesthesia to reduce the time between starting anesthesia and getting the puppies out.
- We induce anesthesia with an IV injection of propofol and maintain anesthesia with iso/oxygen gas.
- The entire uterus is pulled out to help reduce any contamination within the abdomen and ensure all puppies are removed. We triple check to make sure there are no puppies left behind.
- We give an injection of buprenorphine (opiate for pain) and oxytocin (to help flush uterus and help with milk letdown) after the puppies are all out.
- We flush the abdomen with a liter of saline to help clean out the abdomen.
- We do not send home antibiotics unless there is a complication during surgery.
- We send home tramadol for pain. This can be started the evening of surgery. Please contact us if you are concerned about your bitches' pain level following surgery.
- All sutures will be internal, so there is no suture removal needed post op. Check the incision at least twice a day and ensure that it stays clean and dry.