

# THE CORRECT AGE TO BREED THE MALE AND THE FEMALE

BY  
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The breeding rules of CAFIB have stated two procedures which brought about reaction, incomprehension and many requests to clarify them.

These, and many cases, do not hide the true purpose: complain. The first one prohibits mating prior 24 months of age; the second does not allow one to breed a bitch in all heats, proving a rest to the bitch in one in each two or at least one in three heats.

Among the arguments against it, the most common is that we would be going against nature. “If nature permits the heats they are to be used” or “Nature knows more than us”.

Nature works as an argument when it is convenient, but to obey it in the other points; no one thinks about nor researches about.



*A well cared bitch, two days before delivering*

### **The laws of Nature**

Let's see how nature acts. Indeed it gives the bitch the first heat from 6 to 8 months. Commonly it is a heat without ovulation but in breeds which have large litters or large breeds like Fila, generally

speaking the first heat is fertile. Together with it, Nature provides a gathering of rules or laws, in order to reach the so called “biologic balance”. There are cool, tough laws, well calculated and non flexible; eliminating the

weak and the no adapted ones. These are laws that Nature applies in the following moments:

- 1 Avoiding conception: sterility in a number of males and females. Man, chemically, creates, reestablishes it going against Nature, breeding those which nature has forbidden.
- 2 In the intra-womb phase, with all the problems due to mal formation of the litter, resulting in many being born dead or mummified fetus.
- 3 The weak ones, not suited, incapable of sucking the milk or with congenital malformation such as a harelip and a split palate in the mouth will not survive. Man help in the first case with bottles.
- 4 Around the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> day, death comes to collect a few others. Generally it picks out the big and the apparently stronger ones. The causes are always indefinite. We try to justify: the bitch laid on them; stepped on them. In truth Nature determines a bad function of the thyroid, caused a higher growth, surpassing in size and mass their siblings.
- 5 Around the 30<sup>th</sup> day some puppies show a pale gum showing sudden and severe anemia. These are the normally diseases caused by worms. Nature has condemned them all but, man helped by vets, salves some.
- 6 From 6 to 8 month the young bitches have the first heat which leads to severe hemorrhage sometimes and once again man manages to solve it in most cases.
- 7 The ones, who manage to mate, would normally face in nature several kinds of troubles, such as hemorrhage again, and nature does not heal it. Man again does.
- 8 Pregnancy brings several kinds of problems as well and many are lost while pregnant.
- 9 Difficult deliveries take away many bitches and their litters. Once again Science and man interfere and saves both the litter and the mother and if not possible at least the mother, going against nature and bringing into reproduction bitches which have inherit the difficulties of delivering
- 10 After delivery there are other problems such as fever pertaining to giving birth, taking away many bitches, when man would not interfere to save them.
- 11 While feeding the puppies many times the mother may have eclampsia in all its forms. Man again goes against nature.
- 12 Lack of milk eliminates many litters completely. Man supplies the organic needs and forces the bitch to produce milk.

This is more or less what nature does to force its biological balance avoiding a super population of dogs and other animals on earth.

Most of these problems are solved, preventively, clinically or in surgery by veterinarians; The result is: Most of the ones condemned by nature are saved by man.



*The same bitch, three days after delivering*

**The strongest ones survive, the law of nature says.**

Still more: In nature the dog survives in packs and each one has its leader, which is always the strongest male, more intelligent and capable. He is the only one to mate the bitches. The other males do not even dream to take part in reproduction. Then the strongest prevails, assuring a selection. Finally a younger and more capable male challenges the older male which is getting older. Other ones try too and the young male defeats them all. Once again the strongest, the healthiest and the most capable wins assuming the leadership. Once again the strong genes are passed into the next generations and the less efficient males spend their entire life without reproducing and passing their genes.

This social organization of the dogs guarantee that only males with more than 2 years old, when they are grown and strong enough reproduce

themselves. Before this age they are weak and are easily defeated by the leader. Nature wants only the strong , more capable, more courageous, more intelligent ones and all this can only be found in a mature dog.

Do we obey nature? On the contrary; We use all males in reproduction and all the females, even the weak ones and more and more we bring less capable and weaker dogs into the world.

We use especial pre-birth care and all the preventive and resources of modern medicine to save the dogs. We do whatever it is possible to defeat nature and destroy its work. We rarely make a selection. We fight to save bitches, dogs, litters and we are not guided by quality.

That is why when we try to establish rules to cooperate with nature and to avoid the problems caused by man there are so many protests and incomprehension.

Let's continue our analyses.

We do know that the development of a dog is slower for large breeds. In truth, a two years old bitch is still a child, messy, playful and inconsequent. When she is around two and half years old, we still notice the last changes in her body, the final details' in expression. Then she gets the body and mass necessary that only maturity brings.

### **The risk for the bitch**

At 6/8 months a filia bitch is only a big puppy, unbalanced, weak chest and entirely messy. Her skeleton is still in formation and most have not even changed their teeth completely. At this age she needs much protein to form her muscles; vitamins for her intern organs; and much calcium to built up her bones. And she will keep needing it and many other elements to form her body for the next two years.

Getting pregnant at six months her feeding won't be for her formation anymore once it will go to the litter. The capability of eating food is limited and also what she can get from it. Being pregnant her development stops and we may lose a respectful bitch. And the litter?

There will be 10-12 organisms disputing the food with the bitch and therefore will small, weak and almost all die in the end of a month. And the bitch?

The greatest majority has little or no milk. Around the 12<sup>th</sup> day problems of eclampsia arouse and the ones which do not die become nervous, develop allergies, cavities and some will have weak bones which may break when she jumps over a step, ladder or bench etc.

Is that what nature wanted?

Why not wait that the bitch finishes her development? Why not wait for the first heat after her second year of life? Why not assure a normal pregnancy and delivery? Why not be sure to have a strong, healthy and capable litter?

### **Recovery of the bitch**

Fila litters are large. A fila indeed has many puppies in a litter. Some leave 6 puppies with the bitch and feed the others with a bottle. But for the first 3 days they are left with the bitch to suck the colostrum.

At about 20<sup>th</sup> day, a puppy having a bottle every 3 hours, demand 4 to 5 liters of milk. The same amount the bitch has to produce to feed the other six left with her. And so she does keeping her puppies well fed and plump.

We have done and redone this experiment in our kennel. The amount of nutrients which make the milk strong and rich is amazing. All the fat, vitamins, acids, proteins, carbohydrates are extracted from the organism of the bitch.

Many cows do not produce 5 liters of milk a day. Compare the size of a cow to the size of a bitch and then conclude how the organism of the bitch will be after 60 days.

And take into account that at the end of the milking period, when there is little milk; she regurgitates what she eats semi digested by acids and enzymes to feed the puppies. And she is still producing milk. How should her condition be at this time?

Reviewing: 63 days of pregnancy; production of 10 skeletons, 10 nervous systems, 10 muscles systems, 10 groups of intern organs, 10 endocrine systems, 10 veins system, 10 lymphatic systems, 10 skins etc. etc.

In succession to these 63 days are 60 more days of feeding with milk and regurgitation. This adds up to 123 days of intense organic and physical consumption.

Then in other two months the six month period completes and she has another heat which if used will start it all over again. Question: Will the extra two months be enough for the bitch to recover from all her efforts and loss? Can her organism produce another litter as good as the previous one? Won't the new puppies have organic deficiency that we may find out only later?

Why not give the bitch a larger period to recover totally and get whatever she needs for herself and for a future satisfactory and healthy reproduction?



Please do not think that CAFIB is creating new things in the dog world. These are the same rules adopted by specialized clubs such as German Sheppard, Dobermann, Rottweiler, boxer, Great Dane, Akita – in Germany, France and Japan.

*The bitch six months after delivery. Completely recovered?*

So now, with this attempt to clarify these points we dare request: Let your bitch and your stud reach the second year and then breed. After, let the bitch rest one in each 2 heats. Then you will be helping to recover our breed: Fila Brasileiro.

Translation: Olegario Bretas Ferreira.

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