



CAESAREAN SECTIONS

What is a Caesarean section?

A Caesarean section, or C-section, is a major surgery performed to remove fetuses from the uterus. This is most commonly performed as an emergency surgery procedure when there is difficulty with natural birth (dystocia). However, this procedure is also common practice with certain breeds predisposed to difficult deliveries.

How do you know if your pregnant pet needs a c-section and how much does it cost?

Caesarean Section \$3500-\$5000

Caesarean sections in canines and felines may be necessary for multiple reasons. If your pet is having difficulty giving birth, it is in the pet's best interest to have them examined by a veterinarian sooner rather than later. There are many issues including the loss of a litter that may occur if your pet is left in labor for too long and/or is experiencing dystocia.

A C-section may be necessary for other reasons including the following: if your pet is in active labor for more than two hours without birth, or signs of illness or distress in the mother such as vomiting, fever, pain, and bloody discharge from the vulva.

What information is helpful to your veterinarian-

Knowing the exact date when your female has been bred will help determine an expected due date for your pet's litter. The normal gestational period for a canine or feline is 63 days. This is important to note because if your pet has mated over multiple days, there is a possibility that the ages of the fetuses can vary which creates more potential that some of the fetuses are not fully developed.

Additional testing that may be warranted and recommended by your vet- bloodwork, ultrasound, radiographs

Other Medical management options include:

Hospitalization/Supportive Care \$1000-\$1500

Supportive care: hospitalization, intravenous fluids, calcium, oxytocin and oxygen therapy

Progesterone Level Serum Testing and cost

Progesterone Testing \$158.98

What is progesterone testing, and how can it help us?

Dogs typically enter stage 1 labor within 24 hours of a decline in serum progesterone to <2 ng/ml, which develops in conjunction with increased circulating prostaglandins and is commonly associated with a transient drop in body temperature (< 99°F [37.2°C]).

Testing progesterone levels can also assist us in deciding if we should monitor or if we should proceed with surgery.

>5 ng/ml indicates the onset of parturition is likely 12 hours or longer away. Less than 2% of pregnant females with this serum level are likely to enter spontaneous whelp within the following 12 hours placing them at lower risk for need for overnight parturition observation.

<2.8 ng/ml Most of the pregnant females will be within 48 hours of onset of parturition. The owners must be on high alert for the next 48 hours.

<2.0 a caesarean section is typically recommended

<1 ng/ml Pregnant females are very likely within 24 hours of onset of spontaneous parturition. The owners must be on high alert for the next 24 hours.

Client Initials/Staff initials: _____