



ROYAL CANIN®

CARING FOR A PREGNANT QUEEN



Heat-Gestation-Lactation Birth Weaning Growth

There are no significant changes in the queen's behavior for approximately the first three weeks of pregnancy, although some breeders have reported a form of short lived morning sickness with loss of appetite. A specially adapted, complete and balanced diet must be offered freely to the queen during pregnancy and lactation. Diets formulated for pregnancy and lactation have higher levels of protein and other nutrients than maintenance diets. She must also have access to clean water at all times. There is no need to restrict the queen's activity due to the pregnancy. However, it is best to avoid unnecessary exposure to other cats, to reduce the risk of stress, fighting or contracting an infectious disease.

By about the end of the third week, pink coloration of the nipples may be noticed, especially with a first pregnancy. Gradually, the hair around the nipples will recede, as the nipples enlarge and become more prominent. This allows the newborn kittens to locate the nipples easier. Longhaired cats may be kept clean by clipping the hair around the perineum and on the abdomen around the nipples.

It is not uncommon for the queen's activity level to diminish during the last two weeks

of pregnancy. The fetuses are growing rapidly and the queen's abdomen is greatly enlarged, unless she is carrying only one kitten. Some digestive problems can occur during this part of the pregnancy due to the pressure of the enlarged uterus on the digestive tract, especially the colon and stomach. Most queens are quiet and tranquil during this time, and it should be possible to see the kittens actively moving through the queen's abdominal wall when she is resting.

The average length of pregnancy in a cat is 66 days, but it can vary from 52 to as long as 74 days. Because the exact day and time of fertilization may not be known, the length of gestation may vary.

PRACTICAL NOTE

Pregnant queens should not be exhibited at cat shows and trips away from home should be avoided, unless absolutely necessary. If a queen has been shipped by air to be bred, the optimum time to travel home is during the first three weeks. An early pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasound could be advisable in such a case. The pregnant queen should never be sedated or travel.



ROYAL CANIN IS THE
SCIENTIFIC REFERENCE
IN THE FIELD OF FELINE
REPRODUCTION.

No other company in the world has the same exceptional partnership with cat breeders' as Royal Canin. Cat breeder's observations have led to extensive nutritional advances by scientists at the Royal Canin Research and Development Centre in Aimargues, France.

For more than 40 years, Royal Canin has provided cat breeders with individualized nutritional solutions for their cats and contributed to global reproductive research.