

Ovulation Detector FAQ's

Is the Dog Ovulation Detector a Progesterone Test?

No, the device uses a long proven testing method called impedance. While the testing method is completely different than a blood progesterone test, it does give you the information needed, as it will tell you when the dog has ovulated. So, while they are different methods, they will give you the same answer – ovulation timing.

The Ovulation Detector is measuring the electrical resistance of the vaginal mucous and what you will find is that the readings will peak and decline two days following the Lh surge. The peak/highest reading using the ovulation detector is related to the Lh surge, in fact, the readings will reach their highest point and start to decline about two days after this at the time of ovulation and it is recommended to inseminate 24 hours (48 at the latest) of this peak and decline in results for the best results.

Is the Dog Ovulation Detector difficult to use?

The detector is very simple to use. If used per the instructions manual it will provide excellent results. Keeping the detector clean and disinfected is of the utmost importance. It should be disinfected BEFORE and AFTER each use. Any mucus left on the probe will give false results. The device methodology is long proven – if used correctly as prescribed.

How should readings be taken?

The readings should be done once a day when ovulation is approaching and twice a day (once every 12 hrs.) when values start to increase. Readings should always be taken the same way; it is best if the probe reaches the cervix. You will know you have reached the cervix when after gentle insertion you meet resistance. Ensuring that the probe is always inserted to the same depth every time you test is important. Otherwise, you can insert the probe and take readings in different parts of the vagina and receive random, incorrect results. We also advise to always take the readings at the same time of the day, morning is best. There are several factors which may affect the readings otherwise, but errors can be avoided by taking readings at the same time every day. Be as consistent as possible.

What should I do if the readings are different than the manual?

The readings do not need to be the same as in the chart. Each bitch will be unique. It is important to find the **highest peak reading** and **the subsequent fall in readings**. If reading values start decreasing ovulation is imminent. The best moment for insemination is when the readings fall close to the *initial base line level*. It is ideal to get a baseline reading for your bitch either before or as early as possible in her heat cycle. The actual numbers are less important than the trend, you're looking for the highest/peak reading and then decline in readings.

Is there a way to check/test the device to ensure it is working properly?

- A) When you press the switch in open air "1 0" should be displayed.
- B) Prepare water-saline solutions with different salt concentrations, immerse the probe in these solutions and check whether the instrument responds to the changes in the concentration of salt. The more salt you add, the lower the readings will be. If the readings decline as more salt is added, this indicates that the device is functioning correctly.

- C) After the probe, has been taken out of the solution the result should constantly show in the display and should not disappear before 30 seconds (the switch must be held, of course).
- D) Make sure while checking the instrument that the electrodes (at the end of the probe) are clean and no “LO BAT” is displayed indicating the batteries need replacing.

The readings are very high, is the device working properly?

Dirt, or skin oil on the electrodes will result in readings too high, whereas urine on the electrodes or solutions containing salt will cause lower readings. Please clean the electrodes and check if the device is working well, by following instructions explained above. Ensure to follow cleaning instructions in the manual to avoid damage to the probe sensors.

How should I clean the device?

Before and after each measurement, the detector must be disinfected. Careful and thorough cleaning and disinfection of the instrument is very important for proper usage. We recommend wiping the probe with gauze, cotton linen or even tissue paper to clean it of mucus, feces, urine or hair, especially around the electrodes. Next, it is best to wash it under warm, never hot running water with soap and finally immerse it in a disinfecting solution or alcohol. Always use disinfectants at concentrations given by the manufacturer, as if not used properly they may cause irritation of the vaginal lining. Wiping the probe clean before use will prevent this from happening.

What should I do if my device is not functioning properly?

Please check the device as described in the question: *Is there any way to check the instrument?* If it isn't working as expected contact us. It's unusual for a device to be defective; a review of the correct application might do the trick!

Does the device work by measuring temperature?

It measures electrical resistance of the vaginal mucus located near the cervix which changes as the bitch moves through her cycle.

How accurate is the device?

It is very accurate and consistent when operated correctly and consistently.

Is it possible to harm a bitch during a test?

Not unless you are very heavy handed and do not take obvious care. Compare the size of the probe (length and diameter) to the penis of the dog (even in toy breeds). Gentle insertion of the probe is important to ensure the probe is inserted at the angle of the vagina and levelled off to reach the cervix (see *How do you know if the probe is in the right place?*).

How do you know if the probe is in the right place?

The probe should be inserted until a slight resistance is felt, which is when the probe just reaches the cervix. At this position, the probe tip is positioned within the area containing the maximum amount of mucus to thus obtain accurate and consistent readings. This position is adjusted slightly relative to the size of the bitch. Also, some bitches can be very dilated early in the cycle with little or no resistance being felt. Larger breeds will likely require the entire length of the probe inserted, whereas toy breeds will likely require less. If you have experience performing an AI, keep in mind the

length of the tube inserted to reach the cervix or alternatively, consider the length of the male penis for the breed, that is a good indication of how far the probe should be inserted.

Mimic the angle of entry of the stud dog as he enters from underneath at approximately 45 degrees and then 'levels off'. Remember that the vaginal passage has a kink in its shape. (Thus you need to enter at approximately 45 degrees and then level off as well). Sometimes early in the season, a few bitches may be somewhat dry. Moisten the probe with water, part the lips of the vulva and gently push the probe into the vulva. If the bitch constricts, hold the unit in place and do not push anymore until she relaxes, at which time you can resume gentle pressure, and the probe will slip into the passage easily. **Do not use a lubricant** such as KY jelly or Vaseline as they will adversely affect the readings obtained!

How often should readings be taken?

It is best to take readings daily at the same time of the day. When the figures start to rise, it is wise to take 2 readings a day (1 x every 12 hours) to pinpoint the peak number more accurately and thereby determine the best time to breed. We suggest once every 12 hours, and be consistent, commit to every 12 hours, for instance 8 am and 8 pm. When readings start to rise, testing every 12 hours is helpful in pinpointing the peak reading and decline. Do not test more often as readings can fluctuate during the day, which can make graph interpretation more challenging. Stick to twice a day, at the same time each day to make result interpretation easier. **Never repeat a test immediately following a test. By performing a test, you have discharged the mucous and another test too soon, will provide inaccurate results.**

When should I start taking readings?

Take regular readings from the very first moment that you notice your bitch coming into season. Be consistent, sticking as close to the same time each day, makes for better interpretation of results.

For how long should the probe be inserted for?

After the reading stabilize on the detector LCD (takes approximately 2 seconds) the probe may be taken out of the bitch.

All the readings are low (no reading surpasses 200), what should I do?

Usually, it is because the probe is not inserted far enough into the bitch and does not reach the actual mucus which is what the unit is looking to measure. Also, salt from the urine can depress the readings. Alternatively, she may not be reaching ovulation yet, continue testing.

I am getting high readings randomly, why?

Usually, it is because the probe is inserted too far. (the whole length of the probe is inserted up to the body of the instrument). Thus, going past the cervix and producing random high readings.

How can I tell the difference between a 'false peak' and a real peak?

The false peak can be just a small rise and fall or the rise can be quite significant. Regardless of the value though, it typically occurs around day 3/4/5 of the season. Some dogs readings will have small ups and downs, you will know the real peak reading as no result will ever be that high again.

My bitch still has some red discharge; however, the device indicates to breed, what should I do?

It is indicating what *is* happening with your bitch as opposed to the external signs, trust the device.

What is the probe made of? Will it break off?

The probe is made of a high-quality special polyamide plastic which is very durable.

Will the bitch mind the procedure?

All bitches are different, some accept the probe instantly without any problems the first time it is used, some are puzzled and some are uneasy, much in the same way as the reaction of a bitch to a stud dog when mating.

What should the maximum/peak reading be?

Some bitches peak reading may be 400, whereas others may be well more than 1000. The key point to remember is that you are looking for the big picture trend (**peak and drop**) as opposed to the actual value of the reading.

My bitch did not peak at 600, I kept waiting and missed it!

The Manual explains that the peak value may be higher or lower than the *example* shown in the manual of a 600-peak figure. (Look for the peak followed by the decline in results). Each bitch will have her own unique results; the key is to pinpoint the highest/maximum reading and the decline in results.

When is the best time to mate?

Manufacturers state that the optimum time to breed is 24 hours after the peak. The peak reading coincides with the LH surge which triggers ovulation. The decline in readings coincide with ovulation. It is recommended to breed 24 hours after the decline starts, 48 hours at the latest.

Can lubricant be used on the probe?

Lubricant will adversely affect the value of the readings obtained. Do not use any lubricant, the device results will be for the lubricant and not the vaginal mucous.

How do you rotate the device while pressing the button?

You rotate the unit first and after a full rotation ~ THEN the button is pressed.

What happens with the readings once the bitch has ovulated?

The peak figure indicates when the luteinizing hormone is released, triggering ovulation to occur. After which time the value of the readings decrease steadily in a relatively short time and finally reach an approximate plateau figure at which they remain.

Can a bitch go through heat and not ovulate?

Yes, bitches can display 'standard expected behavioral signs' but not have a 'normal' ovulatory season.

How will I know when the peak has been reached?

By taking readings regularly. Once readings start to rapidly rise, it is possible to take more readings in the day, however, ensure they are spaced out by **at least 4 hours in between**. Once every 12 hours is ideal. When the values increase 2, 3 or 4 times a day a maximum peak figure is obtained.

Does diet affect the readings?

The manufacturer is currently researching this issue and believes that diet does affect the readings. However, once again it is not the actual value of the readings what is important but the profile that is obtained, to determine the peak figure.

Why do I get different readings when I push the button without moving the probe?

Because the electrical potential of the mucus initially tested has been discharged. Do not do a test more than once every four hours. You will get inaccurate readings and confuse yourself.

How will I know when the battery is low?

The LCD screen on the unit will show the message: LO BAT.

Will I need an assistant to help me when taking a reading?

No, but just as with breeding an assistant is helpful in reassuring and steadying the bitch.

How long will the device last?

With proper maintenance, it can last a lifetime.

How should I clean the instrument?

Disinfect the detector before and after each measurement. Careful and thorough cleaning and disinfection of the instrument are the most important conditions for its proper usage. Always use disinfectants at concentrations given by the manufacturer, otherwise they may irritate the vaginal lining. The best disinfectant agent is Hibiscrub, Dettol or Savlon solutions, or any other agent indicated for veterinary use. Wipe the surface of the probe with the solution, then rinse thoroughly with warm water (never hot water as it could damage the probe sensors), dry and store in its case.

Can I use the device when a bitch has problems?

Obviously, this instrument will not solve the reproduction problems of a bitch. It will not change an infertile bitch into a fertile one. However, it is another instrument to facilitate managing reproduction programs. This instrument can be used at home. It will reduce the number of visits to the vet as well as the number of more expensive and invasive tests. It will help to determine false heat because in such a case the value of the reading will not increase. Also, in the case of a silent heat the peak reading and decline can be determined precisely.

Is it safe to test/use the probe after mating?

Yes, it should not have any adverse effects, however it is recommended to wait 24 hours after mating to use the device.

Is it recommended to continue testing following Artificial Insemination?

Using the device following insemination is not recommended, as it might pull some semen out when removing the probe. However, it depends on the day she ovulated and when an AI was performed. For instance, it's possible for dogs to have a few false peak readings before they ovulate and if a false peak is misinterpreted as her real peak and she is inseminated, obviously, it will be unsuccessful. In which case, continuing to check her with the DOD once every 12 hours would be wise to ensure you catch her real peak and decline in readings. Assuming, you have identified when she ovulated correctly, we would suggest not testing her anymore with the device so as not to waste any of the semen.

Common Mistakes

- Not inserting the probe correctly or being inconsistent with the depth for each test.
- Testing too frequently or testing inconsistently.
- Not looking at the big picture trending to find the *peak and decline in readings*. Remember, each bitch is different, and each cycle can be different, look for the trend (highest reading, decline in readings).

DOG PREGNANCY DETECTOR – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the Pregnancy Detector work?

The Pregnancy Detector for Dogs uses ultrasound waves to detect the presence of amniotic fluid inside the uterus. Amniotic fluid indicates pregnancy.

How early can a pregnancy be confirmed?

Pregnancy can be confirmed as early as the 21st day after mating / insemination. The optimal time for greatest accuracy is 25-28th day. Testing can be performed from 3 weeks after mating. However, the optimal time for accurate diagnosis is between days 25 & 28, due to the enlargement of the uterus at this time and its movement slightly downward, closer to the peritoneum. Testing prior to day 25 is possible, but accuracy decreases due to insufficient amniotic fluid being present to reflect the ultrasonic waves. Testing after the optimal period is also possible

Can the Pregnancy Detector be used with all breeds?

Yes, the device allows you to adjust the ultrasound signal for all breed sizes. Setting this correctly is important. Bitches vary in weight and size for different breeds and thus the gain must be set to the correct position relevant to the size of the bitch that is being tested.

The device is calibrated for the following settings:

- S** For **small** bitches – (Yorkshire Terrier, Chihuahua, Pekingese, Toy Poodle, Daschund, etc.)
- M** For **medium** size bitches – (West Highland White Terrier, Border Terrier, Norwich or Norfolk Terrier, Fox Terrier, Whippet, Cocker Spaniel, Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu, Corgi)
- L** For **large** bitches – (German Shepherd, Border Collie, Rottweiler, Labrador/Retriever, Afghan Hound, Standard Poodle, Doberman, Boxer, Dalmatian etc.)
- G** For **giant** bitches – (Old English Sheepdog, St. Bernard, Newfoundland, Bernese Mountain Dog, Irish Wolfhound, etc.)

With usage, familiarity and experience, the gain control can be adjusted to suit the particular bitch, both in terms of breed type and actual size, so that an optimum setting is achieved to ascertain accurate results.

How long does it take to perform a test?

Normal scanning time is 15 to 20 seconds or a little longer, but with practice, accurate test results can be achieved in a few seconds.

How do you use the Pregnancy Detector?

Place the probe to the right groin, direct it 40-45° pointing towards the head. **It is imperative that the probe is placed and directed as shown in the diagram in the user manual and is pointing towards the front of the bitch at an approximate angle of 40 to 45 degrees.**

- Before testing, ensure you know the date of mating or insemination.
- Immerse the head of the probe in the gel, oil or other suitable contact medium (excellent results via ease of use have been obtained by using any normal household cooking oil). Use a small glass jar containing the oil with a wide mouth top and dip the end of the ultrasound probe into the oil.
- Remove the probe from the oil and gently shake of the excess, then place the probe in the correct position on the bitch and begin to test.
- Hold the probe against the skin of the bitch at the position shown on the user manual.
- Move the probe in a sliding motion until you achieve a good airless contact, indicated by a steady flashing green pulse of light from the diode and acoustic signal 'beeping' at the same frequency. (Approx. 1x per second).
- As shown on the diagram, when placing the probe against the skin, you must direct the ultrasound waves towards the horns of the uterus.
- Test for pregnancy on both the left- and right-hand sides and commence scanning by moving the probe head around the general area, keeping the probe pressed against the skin **so as not to lose the airless contact.**
- When good contact is achieved, proceed with the scanning. As soon as the device locates amniotic fluid in the uterus, the green light and beeping will change to rapid pulsing at 4- 5 per seconds to indicate pregnancy.

It is advised to ensure an empty bladder and stomach if possible before testing and to ensure the probe is placed in the correct position to avoid a false positive resulting from a full bladder or stomach. For accuracy, the tests should be conducted on both sides, when the bitch is standing. The best time to test the bitch is when she has an empty stomach and an empty bladder. A full stomach and/or bladder may cause false pregnancy results.

How do you interpret the results?

The light and sound signal pulsating slowly (1/s) indicates proper probe contact with the skin. The light together with sound signal pulsating faster (up to 5/s) indicates pregnancy.

I do not want to shave any hair/fur, is it possible for the device to work without having to shave a small patch?

It is very important **to touch the probe to the skin** so shaving a small spot is highly recommended. However, to avoid having to shave a small patch, if that is preferred, the second option is wetting/soaking the fur with a solution of water and alcohol (50/50) the main purpose of soaking is to increase the ability to move the wet hair out of the way to get to the best contact between the probe and the skin. If water with alcohol is too weak a mixture to soak long hair properly, then using oil or ultrasound gel could be a better solution.

The device uses ultrasound waves and ultrasound waves will not pass-through air. There are air bubbles in fur/hair. Ultrasound requires good contact with the skin and lubrication to work effectively. If you have ever had an ultrasound, you might recall the amount of gel applied to the skin to get a good ultrasound image. There can be lots of air bubbles in the hair/fur which will interfere with the signal. Soaking the fur while gently pressing out the air bubbles working out trapped air will help. Part the hair/fur to get as close to the skin as possible and use a good amount of lubrication from either KY-jelly or mineral oil (any oil is fine) is suggested.