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ACCIDENTAL BREEDING (MISMATE) OPTIONS

WHAT IS A MISMATING:

An unplanned breeding between sexually intact dogs during a time when the bitch could be fertile (in estrus). Sometimes it is hard to tell if the breeding actually occurred (dogs were found together, unsupervised) or if possible (sexually immature dog). It is also difficult to tell in some cases whether the bitch was at a likely fertile time of her cycle.

EXAMINATION OPTIONS:

1. If you're not sure if the bitch is possibly fertile, have a progesterone test run either the day of or day after the breeding. This will give us an idea if the bitch was likely fertile. It is important to realize that semen can survive in the female's tract for several days--so even if the bitch was bred prior to ovulation, fertilization can still occur.
2. Plan for an exam within one week after the mismating. This will allow us to stage where the female is in her cycle. This will allow all treatment options open.

PREGNANCY TERMINATION OPTIONS:

1. Spay: if the bitch is not intended for breeding, plan to have her spayed as soon as she is out of estrus. This is the easiest and least cost option of pregnancy prevention.
2. Early treatment: if the timing seemed appropriate and fertility is likely, we can terminate the litter in the first 2-3 weeks. This involves injections of a compound twice per day for four consecutive days. The time when this treatment starts is crucial for success and an exam within one week of the mismating is needed to schedule these treatments. In some cases a second exam is needed to accurately determine when to do this treatment. The advantage of this treatment: relatively easy, lower cost than mid-term abortion. The possible negatives: not guaranteed to work (about 80% effective), owners must bring in female for the injections twice per day and each treatment takes about one hour. Then they must return for follow up ultrasound 30 days after the breeding. In addition: the medication used for this procedure is Lutalyse: a natural prostaglandin. Each injection can cause nausea and irritability for approximately 30 minutes.
3. Mid-term abortion: 30 days after the breeding, we will do an ultrasound exam to determine if there is a pregnancy. At that time we can administer Lutalyse injections to hospitalized patients to cause the uterine contents to abort. This takes 7-10 days of treatment. The advantage: we are only treating when we know there is a pregnancy and we treat to effect--until all fetuses are expelled. The negative: nausea and irritability with each treatment--although tolerance to the medication usually develops over the treatment period.