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Har lest denne artikkel med stor interesse, dette synes jeg er viktig informasjon for oppdrettere og alle andre også.

About canine herpes

There is so much wrong information about canine herpes. There are quite a few things breeders should know about. Canine herpes CHV belongs to herpesviridae group. That causes hemorrhagic disease in puppies in very early stage after the birth (less than three weeks of age). Disease is often fatal for the new born puppies.

But like all the herpes viruses of man and animals. All recovered dogs carry the virus for life in a sleeping or latent form. Canine herpes is very common. Latest studies indicates that even 80 % of modern dogs do carry the virus. Specially show dogs and urban dogs often carry the virus. The greater the number of dogs that are kept together or that live in close proximity, the more likely the virus is to be present. It is almost impossible to avoid the virus under modern dog populations.

How to live with it and what to do?

Dogs get infected herpes by inhaling (sniffing) virus containing material and moist from infected virus shedding dog. Practically a judge can spread the virus during one day to many dogs in a dogs show if not strelize hands properly. In general canine herpes do not last long in enviroment. However most dogs have that virus anyway. Dogs passing herpes appear completely normal. Natural mating can transmit canine herpes (stud to your bitch or vice versa). But this is NOT PRIMARY WAY CANINE HERPES MOVES AROUND.

Best way to avoid herpes problems are good kennel practices. You must avoid too-frequent breeding. I even sometimes say that this is natures way to protect the population from too "factory a like breeding" or other vise stressed females. Bitches need a break and they must be in top condition while being bred and having babies. Proper nutrition is also needed. My experience tells that most important factor is stress. Females under the stress are the ones most likely get virus active. It is their puppies who get the herpes in birth (or before the birth in early stage of pregnancy so there will not be puppies). I feel it is important to protect the females and keep them well in peace under the pregnancy.

There is a blood test for herpes virus. However it is not very helpful as the moment of taking the test the virus may be in-active and then the test will not indicate anything else than virus is not active. The dog still can have actual herpes virus. Next week it may be active again. So dog would need to be tested often. With modern dogs testing it is not even issue as it is around and so many have herpes anyway. It is really all about the conditions under mating, preganancy and whelping.

You can try to protect your becoming puppies also by vaccinating the bitch. The vaccine makes herpes active and so it turn in-active again after the active period. Mated females can be vaccinated after 10 days of actual mating and then again 10 days before the birth. The exact dates are important. This is allways breeder's own risk and if vaccinating your bitch have a proper talk with your vet.

If the puppies have herpes and they die. You must think twice what is wrong? May be there is no need to breed her again. Or wait a year. You must build your bitch health up. Next time make sure she have stress free pregnancy and if for some reason herpes would occur again retire the bitch from breeding.

In my recent kingcharlesspaniel litter we had herpes. After the birth puppies started to fade. In my experience the best way to protect the puppies is to raise the room temperature very high. Very high room temperature (over 30 C) is hard for the mother but only way to possibly save the puppies. This worked out with our kingcharles litter and only one puppy was lost.

Canine herpes is not at all that negative disease. In many cases that virus protect the population. You see mentally weak females are more likely to be stressed under pregnancy than mentally strong females. Healthy strong, vital dogs who live stress free life under top conditions will not have problem with the virus evenif the dogs are carrying the canine herpes. Of course this is not allways the case and it is terrible to loose puppies because of herpes. However canine herpes is virus we have to learn to live with. Because of it we must allways protect the well being of our dogs and that keeps the virus under control.