

The role of the mating time and the age of the bitches on litter size in Welsh Corgi Cardigan and Pembroke

Summary

Variation in litter size occurs in different breeds among domestic dogs. The litter size is also depends on the other factors such as the age of the bitch, the season or the mating method. No context has been found to help to predict at least approximately the litter size of a particular breed. However, for breeders, veterinarians and other professionals in the sector, this information would provide a considerable advantage.

The aim of the work was to collect knowledge about the birth rate of females and to evaluate the influence of the season and the age of the bitches on litter size based on collected data.

The study evaluated the birth rate of the welsh corgi (cardigan and pembroke). The data used contains information on 142 litters from 98 welsh corgi bitches in the last 9 years and comes from the database of breeding stations and records of the Kynological Union of Ukraine. For research purposes, females were divided into age groups. In addition, individual litters were divided according to the season: spring, summer, autumn, winter. The size of the litter was evaluated on the basis of the following factors: the age of the bitch at the time of delivery and the season.

The analysis of the factors affecting birth rates were based on litter size. SAS software was used for statistical evaluation. The analysis did not show any correlation between mean litter size and females age, seasons and litter sizes.

The study did not confirm the hypothesis that young females (up to 2 years of age) and older bitches (for 5 years and over) have fewer litters than females aged 2-5 years. The results of this study did not show the impact of the season on litter size.

Keywords: dogs, reproduction, litter size, welsh corgi