



Raising Female Dogs In-Season

Puppy raisers should be aware that some discharge is normal in both female and male adolescent dogs. If the female dog goes into heat, FSD can provide dog “diapers” to the raiser.

Homes (raiser or puppy sitter) will be required to follow certain guidelines while the puppy is in-season, including:

- Female canine seasons generally run for approximately 21 days, but individual dogs may stay in-season for longer periods. It is during this period when females attract male dogs and enter their fertile period.
- No unaltered or recently altered (within the past six weeks) male dogs may live in the home.
- No outings or group outings until bleeding has stopped and behavior is normal.
- If necessary, the pup may be taken to the office, but should be wearing a doggy diaper or boy’s briefs with the tail poked through the fly.
- No walks around the neighborhood unless the puppy is wearing a doggy diaper.
- No interaction with unaltered male dogs is allowed, including FSD dogs/puppies.
- Puppies may not be left in a yard or pen without direct supervision by a raiser or FSD trained family member.
- Puppies are allowed to miss their monthly scheduled outing if their heat cycle coincides with the lesson/ outing, but puppy raisers should schedule a Zoom call or send a write-up to Puppy Development staff.

Signs of a female dog going into heat:

- Change in dog temperament or mood. The female may become more reserved, more clingy, distracted, or less interested in training
- Swollen vulva
- Discharge
- “Flagging” - raising tail

Some dogs may have a “silent heat” in which these signs do not appear. Hence the restriction/ supervision of unaltered male dogs regardless of whether they are owned by FSD or privately.