

Q x Kea

Sire: **Ch Starridge Point Taken AI**
Dam: **Ch Pupukearidge Kealohi (Imp USA)**
Breeder: Cyndy Burton

Thurs 18 April 2013 **Day 1**
Ovulation as determined by progesterone testing.

Sat 20 – Sun 21 April 2013 **Day 3-4**
First and second matings.

Mon 22 April – Thurs 25 April **Week 1**
Fertilization occurs.

Fri 26 April – Thurs 2 May **Week 2**
Embryo will be 4 cell at start of week and 64 cell by end of week. Embryo enters the uterus.

Fri 3 May – Thurs 9 May **Week 3**
Embryos implants along uterus wall. During the next two weeks the important organs will develop.

Fri 10 May – Thurs 16 May **Week 4**
Development of eyes and spinal cord and faces take shape.

Fri 17 May – Thurs 23 May **Week 5**
Ultrasound on 21 May detected pregnancy and determined 8 to 9 puppies, all with strong heartbeats.
Development of toes, whisker buds, and claws.
The puppies are now fully developed miniature dogs.

Fri 24 May – Thurs 30 May **Week 6**
Enlargement of mammary glands as nipples darken and enlarge.

Fri 31 May – Thurs 6 June **Week 7**
She may shred papers, blankets or bedding in an attempt at "nest building" in the last weeks.
Definite abdominal enlargement.

Fri 7 June – Thurs 13 June **Week 8**
Her breasts become swollen as her milk forms.
Nesting begins – moves into the whelping pool for sleeping to become accustomed to the area in which she will have her puppies.
Should be able to feel the puppies move now.

Fri 14 June – Thurs 20 June **Week 9**
She may express milk from her nipples. She will be 'nesting' 12-24 hours before the birth

Thurs 20 June **Expected Date of Whelp.**
Average is 63 days but due to insemination it is likely that she will whelp on day 61 however any time time between 58 and 68 days possible. First foetus will be delivered within 4 hours of the onset of labor.

Mon 17 – Tues 18 June **Actual Whelping date**
In Kea's case she decided to go a little early i.e. Day 60/61. The pups will all be registered as being born on 18 June 2013 as per Dogs Queensland registration requirements.

Birth – 12 days (up to 30 June) Neonatal period (*Early development & reflexive behaviour*)

Puppy can't hear or see well, stays close to mother and littermates.

Breeder provides warm environment and mild stress.

Dr. Michael Fox conducted a study showing mildly stressing puppies during the first five weeks develops dogs which are superior when put in learning or competitive situations. They are better able to handle stress, are more outgoing and learn more quickly. Mild physical stress at an early age will actually increase the size of the brain.

13 – 20 days (up to 20 July) Transitional period

Eyes open, puppy can hear, begins to walk in a wobbly fashion.

They will begin to hear and will respond to taste and smell.

Introduced to novel stimuli in the whelping box such as a plastic milk bottle, knotted towel, cardboard box, etc. This is also a time to introduce puppies to friendly cats. It is important to continue picking up the pups daily, admire them, talk to them, and spend a few minutes with each one individually.

21 – 23 days (up to 22 July) Awareness period / Primary Socialisation (*3 – 5 weeks*)

Puppy is able to use senses of sight and hearing. Learning begins.

Positive training sessions begin at 5 weeks.

It is a time of very rapid sensory development. A stable environment is crucial. It is important not to overload them. Radical changes in the environment must be avoided, i.e. not moving the whelping box!

It is essential that the puppy remain with the litter and the mother.

Each day introduce a new surface such as concrete, linoleum, wood, carpet, matting, etc. Very mild auditory stimuli is introduced, such as a radio playing quietly.

24 – 49 days (up to 9 September) Canine Socialization (*Learning about being a dog*)

Puppy learns species-specific behaviour that makes him a dog (biting, chasing, barking, fighting and body posturing).

Learns to accept discipline from mother and to use submissive postures.

Learns not to bite too hard.

Learns to relate to other litter mates and develops a pack hierarchy through play.

Mother begins to wean puppies between 4-8 weeks, but is allowed as much time with the pups as she wants.

*** Week commencing 23 July pups vaccinated and micro chipped.**

Puppies require plenty of playtime with littermates, so they can socialize.

Leaving the litter before 7 weeks can affect the puppy's ability to get along with other dogs later and they will likely have trouble learning to inhibit the force of their bite.

Each puppy should have one-on-one individual attention with humans. Take two at a time for short car rides.

Occasionally isolate puppies to prepare them for separation.

Puppy's rate of mental development will now depend on the complexity of their environment.

Exposure to a variety of noises and different floor surfaces is important.

*** Pups to new home at 8 weeks (i.e. 6 – 11 August)**

Initial training in new home starts immediately. Pup will learn boundaries and should be exposed to as many SAFE environments as possible. They should meet other dogs, animals and people only where there is assurance that the dogs/animals are appropriately vaccinated and the people aware that all experiences a puppy has up to 12 weeks should be positive!