

Pure Dog Talk 458 – Dog Breeding Back to Basics

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Laura Reeves:

Welcome to Pure Dog Talk. I am your host, Laura Reeves and joining us again today is Dr. Marty Greer, our veterinary voice, and we are so grateful as always for her time. Welcome, Marty.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Thank you. I always appreciate being here.

Laura Reeves:

And today we are talking about, basically just some sort of fundamentals about breeding your bitch. Like how many times should you breed a bitch? Can you breed a bitch back to back? If you've had a C-section, can you breed your bitch again? How many C-sections can you have? I think really basic stuff that is for a lot of people outside their area of experience.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Good.

Laura Reeves:

So let's do it. Let's start with how old... We'll actually start even more fundamental. Your bitch should be X number of months, years old before you breed her.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Well, that depends on the breed. If it's a breed that needs to have hips x-rayed after the age of two, then after the age of two is appropriate. A lot of people want to wait until the bitches are older, either because they want to see what kind of health problems they have, or the bitch may have a career. And when we start to see people breeding when they're six or seven years old for the first time, we struggle a lot with fertility. So my recommendation is to not wait too long.

If you have a breed that you can do hips early on, or don't need to do hips, or you don't worry about seizures when they're five, then breeding young is fine. I don't like breeding on the first heat cycle for a couple of reasons. One is they tend not to be a fertile cycle. Two is the bitch tends not to be mature emotionally or psychologically. And three is she tends not to be physically mature. So I think that pushing them to breed on the first heat is not a great idea. Does that mean it doesn't work ever? No, we have plenty of bitches that plan their own breeding's with their own step-dogs in their house. That may have been the breeding that you planned to do after she turned two, and she and he decided that they would preemptively do a strike. And when you get an accidental breeding, it's always going to work. Statistically at 62% that get pregnant, 38% don't, but it never seems to fail. They have these huge fabulous litters.

And there are methods to interrupt those, but I generally recommend against them unless it's a really strong reason, like a brother, sister, or something along those lines. We have a lot of people who are embarrassed in their breed club. They're worried that people are going to drum them out and tell them, oh, you should never have done that. And of course you didn't plan it. But if someone tells you, and they have males and females that are intact in their homes and

they tell you, I have never had that happen to me either. They're lying to you or it hasn't happened to them yet because at some point the sex drive is strong and males will chew through doors and females will crawl over kennels.

Laura Reeves:

Or you can be out of town. I mean, it happened to me. Okay. This is like my little, what are we going to call this? My little dirty secret. I was out of town and my bright white Wirehaired Pointer bitch, hello, how hard is it to see that she's in season? The beloved people that I left in charge didn't notice. And she was out with my Ibizan Hound.

Dr. Marty Greer:

It happens.

Laura Reeves:

It did.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. And sometimes they're great litters. I had one client that came to us and she wanted to interrupt the pregnancy. And I said, no, no, no, please don't. It's the breeding you intended to do, it's just she's doing it younger than you expected. She was afraid it would ruin her for the show ring. She was afraid it would ruin her all over physically. And she had this absolutely gorgeous litter. I talked her out of it. Now, if it's an Ibizan Hound bred to a Pointer, that might be a different conversation.

Laura Reeves:

Yes. My veterinarian was not very happy with me, but this was a bitch who had had a hard time with her first litter. I had had to have a C-section. I saw no reason to have a C-section and we waited. We ultra-sounded. We knew there were seven puppies and there's no way I was putting her through that particular surgical procedure to bring these particular puppies into the world.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah. And some combinations, even if they're not meant to be aren't too bad combinations. Other combinations are a little weird.

Laura Reeves:

That would not have been.

Dr. Marty Greer:

No. Technically that would be a Lurcher because anything that's bred to a Sighthound is a Lurcher, but yeah, that's still not a breed. So yeah, but there are ways to interrupt pregnancy. If it happens, you have three choices and this is kind of off topic, but you have three choices if you do have a mating that went better than you wanted it to. Most of the time when we have people cry at the ultrasound is because their bitch didn't get pregnant. Sometimes it's because their bitch did. So you can either let her have the puppies and teach her to be a good mom. Number two is you can spay her, which of course is the end of her breeding career. And number three is there is a series of injections and oral medications that can be used that are not estrogen.

So please, please, please, no diethylstilbestrol, no ECP. None of those drugs. Those cause bone marrow suppression and can cause your bitch to die. We can see pyometras, and we still see people giving those drugs. So basically we give them prostaglandin and another oral medication. So if somebody gets themselves into a pickle, email me, I'll help you out. I'm not going to go through the whole protocol because it's not really the kind of thing that we want to talk about today. But there are choices for what you can do that are safe for the bitch and will not interfere with future breeding. So call me, email me, let me know if you need help.

Laura Reeves:

Excellent.

Dr. Marty Greer:

But back to the topic.

Laura Reeves:

No, that's okay. That was actually kind of a good little squirrel that we chased over the fence there. So I think safely we can say two years is a pretty... If it's a month shy and you've got prelims, I mean, we can't be insane about this, but roughly a two-year-old is young enough to be healthy and produce healthy litters. Mature enough mentally and emotionally and physically, et cetera, et cetera.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Right. We had a Bernese Mountain Dog breeder that came to us and he wanted to breed his bitch when she came into heat. But he had been told that Berner bitches never get pregnant with frozen semen. And I looked at my data at the time and we had successfully bred 87.5% of our Berners had gotten pregnant with frozen semen. So I said, well, I think it's probably okay to use. And she was actually 23 months old when we bred her, but she'd already done the prelim, hips and elbows. So we knew that her skeletal system was appropriate genetically for her to breed. And she had 13 puppies. So he was a little surprised that she was as fertile, but we do see bigger litters. I like to breed young bitches with their shiny pink, healthy, new, unused, straight off the showroom floor kind of uterus, not beat up and the bedraggled when she's seven years old. And now you want to use this really valuable frozen semen. Please don't do that. The higher the stress of the semen, like frozen and fresh chilled, the younger and the more fertile the bitch needs to be. So we can't have a sub-fertile male and a sub-fertile female and expect to have a good outcome.

Laura Reeves:

Right. Talk about the idea we had, many of us who come up from the 1970s and 1980s had it beaten into us. You breed every other heat cycle. And more recently I have heard you and my own veterinarian and other people talk about a pregnant uterus is a happy uterus and that breeding back to back and then maybe skipping one or something along those lines is actually a healthier management option. So can we talk about that?

Dr. Marty Greer:

You bet. And yes, we did use to say, skip a cycle in between, but you're right. The uterus starts to age and progesterone is what causes the aging. So every time she's exposed to progesterone during a heat cycle and not bred, you beat up the uterus a little bit more. So breeding back to back makes a lot of sense. Now I also know from the other side of things, we know Russ Kelley did some work at Iams, Eukanuba & Royal Canin that showed it takes a bitch eight months nutritionally to get back to where she was before she was bred. So my middle ground on that is to breed back to back, then skip a cycle, then breed back to back again. So that's four litters in five cycles if you're going to breed her that many times. Once you're done breeding her, I think she should be spayed.

I'm not a proponent of early spays and neuters. We've discussed before, but let her have a cycle off and make sure that nutritionally you're really working it when it comes to that. She should be on puppy food. The other information that we know from again, another study that was done with the collaboration of Eukanuba, with Canine Companions for Independence, CCI, out of Santa Rosa, California, that raises service dogs is they discovered that on a bitch's first litter, 50% of her puppies were successfully graduating as service dogs. And by her fifth litter, they were down to 25%. And it was determined that was a DHA deficiency based on 5,800 puppies in the study. So this is not a little study on three litters, we're talking 5,800 puppies here, people. So pay attention to it, DHA is available. It's seen very widely in a lot of the pet foods, especially puppy foods. You'll see something like smart puppy on the label. That means DHA has been added. We know that from the work that they did, now they add DHA to human baby formula because again, it improves brain and eye development and it does not negatively impact joint development. And again, if someone wants to see those research articles, they were published and I can share those. I can send them to you and you can share them.

Laura Reeves:

We'll put links in the blog post. That one from Canine Companions for Independence on 6,000 puppies, that is huge information.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yeah, really huge. And so we've had clients start to administer DHA and you can buy it at Walmart, you can buy it on Amazon. It's used for humans. So you just buy the human product. There really isn't a published dose, but basically if you use a reasonable number of capsules, like one capsule a day, that makes a lot of sense. And we have clients that have anecdotally reported that they think their puppies are smarter. Now it's also noted that DHA will diminish the development of dementia as you age as a human. So if you can remember to buy DHA when you go to the store, this is where you have to write it down because your dementia is already starting to creep in.

Laura Reeves:

Absolutely, early onset dementia is my world.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So right now, write it down. Get your DHA.

Laura Reeves:

I'm writing it as we speak. DHA, got it. Adding that to my list.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So get your DHA, give it to the bitches and it's a fatty acid. So I typically will give it to them between heat cycles as well as during because you don't want to wait until the very last minute to administer it. So go ahead and start it as soon as you get ahold of it. You can start it now. It's going to help the bitches. And I just give it on a daily basis. Roxann that works for me is also noted that she's had easier whelpings and better litters with DHA. So really pay attention to this kind of nutritional micronutrient that you may or may not find in adequate levels in your pet food. So if you read the labels, like I said, it'll say smart puppy or something along those lines, but supplementing it above and beyond that is certainly not going to hurt the bitch or the puppy. So we'll send those articles out.

Laura Reeves:

I like it. Okay. So we do a back-to-back, a season off and then another litter or two, depending on what you want to have done. What about my bitch that had to have a C-section on her first litter for whatever reason? Too many, not enough, bad timing, whatever it is.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Sure. And that does not interfere with her ability to have a vaginal birth at a future breeding. Just like in people VBACs are okay, vaginal birth after C-section. It's safe for her to have another litter born vaginally if she's had a C-section and it was kind of pondering this this morning when we were talking about this topic. I've done as many as five C-sections on one individual bitch. And I don't have a problem with that. I do try to avoid surgical breedings if it's also a breed that's going to have a C-section because I really hate to make that many incisions. If we're going to have five litters with five surgical breedings and five C-sections, that's 10 abdominal surgeries plus a spay. That's a lot.

Laura Reeves:

It's a lot.

Dr. Marty Greer:

There's a couple of nuances to this. One is, those real thick heavily bodied dogs like the English Bulldogs, the Pugs, the Frenchies, the Bullies, anything that has that full belly and then a tuck up. Those are more difficult surgically to close the abdominal wall after they've had multiple surgeries. There starts to develop scar tissue and that huge tuck up really

makes the surgical technique a little bit harder. I've never seen anybody publish anything on it, but consistently I see that happening in my hands, in my practice and we do 200 C-sections a year. So it's not like I do three a year. So there are days we do four in a day. So we have a lot of experience with this. The other thing is after abdominal procedures, and it can be something like a surgical AI, but more typically it's a C-section, we see serosal cysts developing primarily in Bernese Mountain Dogs, sometimes Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs and Golden Retrievers. And those are just cysts on the outside of the uterus. They're fluid filled. They're very thin walled. They're not going to cause any kind of infertility or pathology because they're on the outside of the uterus, not the inside, but those seem to be really prevalent after multiple C-sections.

So if your veterinarian says something about cysts, you need to know, is it an ovarian cyst? Is it an inside the uterus cystic endometrial hyperplasia cyst? Or is it the outside of the uterus serosal cyst? Because those are all very different in what kind of pathology they create for fertility and what we have to be concerned about. So you don't need to spay for serosal cysts. Those are not uncommon, not anything serious, don't interfere with fertility. But if they're large enough, they can be seen on ultrasound and it can sometimes be difficult to distinguish between the cysts on the outside of the uterus and the inside of the uterus, or even potentially a pyometra at ultrasounds. So if you have Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs or Golden Retrievers, keep that in mind and don't let your veterinarian be caught off guard by those, or at least be prepared with an answer if they poke their head of the surgery room door at C-section and say, "Hey, she's got cysts, do you want me to spay her?" The answer is no, don't spay at C-section, which is a whole topic into itself. And those are common, common, common in those breeds. So don't get alarmed about them.

Laura Reeves:

Okay. That's very, very cool.

Hang tight guys. Got a little bit of information for you. We'll be right back to the podcast in a minute.

Hi, crew, check it. Dog events are happening. For exhibitors who are able and willing to attend these events. It feels as if our tribe has been reunited once again. Meanwhile, for folks who are continuing to feel safer staying at home and away from crowds and for folks who are driving long haul between far flung events, I got you. I've been working hard to bring you all podcast episodes that help you feel connected to our larger community and offer opportunities for education and entertainment no matter how you have managed through this truly overwhelming year. One of my favorite events this year is the monthly virtual Pure Dog Talk After Dark for patrons of our podcast. Anybody can join this fabulous community of dog enthusiasts by visiting the website and clicking on the become a patron link on the homepage.

And while you're there zooming around on the site, you might think about checking out our shopping tab too. We've linked dog show vendors from all around the country. So you can help support them during this really grueling loss of income suffered due to a lack of events. There's even a swag link that lets you order your Pure Dog Talk t-shirt, sweatshirt, phone case, mask, ringside towel, and so much more. Like the NPR of dogdom, Pure Dog Talk is here for you every day to make sense out of everyday things, to add nuance to your understanding and tools to your talk box, to bring history to life and propel the living history of purebred dogs into the future. So check out the links at www.puredogtalk.com. Your support adds up to a huge voice for purebred dogs.

Laura Reeves:

I think the answer about you can actually have a successful vaginal birth or even another C-section, I had one particular bitch I had to have three C-sections on. First one, I was out of town. My vet was taking care of her for me. She had to do the C-section because that was what she had to do. And then she had too many puppies and then she didn't have enough puppies and she was very healthy through all of them. So anecdotally, I know that particular bitch survived that very well. Are there things or concerns that owners should look for that will help them make those kinds of decisions about their individual bitches?

Dr. Marty Greer:

To decide if they need a C-section or to decide if they need a subsequent C-section?

Laura Reeves:

Right. Subsequent C-section.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So 75% of C-sections are maternal causes, 25% are fetal causes. Fetal causes are things like oversized fetus, deformed fetus like a walrus puppy. A puppy that malpresents, in other words it comes down and it starts to come down out of one uterine horn, and instead of coming down to the cervix it takes a U-turn and goes back up into the other horn. Those are all fetal causes. Those do not necessarily mean that you're going to need another C-section. So it's really a good idea to have a conversation at the time of the C-section with your veterinarian to find out if they could determine the underlying cause for the C-section. We had a set of twins that caused a C-section and typically dogs don't twin. We've seen two sets in 40 years, so it's not at all common, but those are fetal causes. 75% are maternal causes, things like breed. Well, if she was a Bulldog before you bred her, she's going to be a Bulldog every time you breed her. So she's still a Bulldog. You're still going to need a C-section or the Greater Swiss and the Burmese Mountain Dogs, which have a lot of primary uterine inertia.

They aren't good whelpers. If you're feeding a diet that's nutritionally incomplete in calcium like a raw meat diet or some of the other diets. Yes, you're going to need a C-section because you didn't prepare her body nutritionally for a good whelping. So those are all maternal causes. If she had a pelvic fracture, she has a stricture, if she has any of those abnormalities, she's still going to have them every time she has a litter. If you have one or two puppies or more than nine puppies, you're going to need a C-section. And then if she has a reasonable number, the next time like six, you very well may be successful at going ahead and having a vaginal birth. And so there's one other thing here again, that's sort of a sideline and I don't want to derail this conversation, but I'm going to anyway, about resorption sites.

And we were talking about serosal cysts and all those things, but we also frequently see resorption sites at C-section and often you will have a bitch that had seven puppies on ultrasound, and then there were four at the C-section. And you're wondering why there were only four and what went on and why are they so big? And this is a bitch that usually has eight. So what went wrong? So this is the perfect time to talk to your veterinarian before the C-section to have uterine biopsies collected at the C-section. You're already in the uterus. I usually take two, one at the incision site where I made the incision to remove the puppies, so there's normal placental development at that site. And then you can feel the resorption sites surgically, when you're the surgeon, you can feel those resorption sites. They'll feel thickened. There'll be kind of a yellowish plaque. And there's this very characteristic grayish yellowish, mucoid discharge that if you culture it it's always negative.

So that's the other site to take a uterine biopsy. And so this is something you should talk to your veterinarian about before you go to C-section so that at C-section they can go ahead and proceed and take another small incision. It doesn't have to be a big one. It's not going to damage the uterus. And I actually had a very long conversation, an hour long conversation with the pathologist that we use for our uterine biopsies on Friday. He's Chris Premanandan at Ohio State University. He is double boarded in therio and pathology. He's brilliant. And we had a long talk about whether we could do some kind of a study to try and grade some of these situations and try and grade fertility and some other things. So don't spay for a resorption site that is not a pyometra.

I've had people misconstrue that as a pyometra because it does have a real characteristic look to it that the fluid may resemble a pyometra, but it's very localized. It feels like a thickened plaque. You know you had more puppies before than you ended up having at C-section and they should not be spayed. I've actually seen veterinarians mistakenly think that that's a pyo, but it's incredibly rare to have a pyometra at the same time as the pregnancy. It is not incredibly rare to have resorptions. We think up to 30% of conceptions turn out to be resorptions. So it's a huge number and it's not unusual to see in bitches. Took a little sideline there.

Laura Reeves:

No, this is good. This is another good squirrel. No, I love these squirrels. Let's talk about resorbing puppies because I've had bitches do it. I think everyone that's ever bred a litter somewhere along the way has had a resorption. What causes them if you're saying 30% of conception ends in a resorption? What's causing that?

Dr. Marty Greer:

And that's the question that we can't always answer. Even sometimes with biopsy. Sometimes the biopsies give us tremendously great information. Other times we get nothing. So there can be inflammation. There can be infection. There can be fibrosis. There can be cystic endometrial hyperplasia. There can be illness in the bitch. The uterine health has only one possible cause for that, or she had diabetes while she was pregnant or something else that happened. So there's a lot of reasons that we can see bitches resorb their puppies. And that's the value of doing the uterine biopsies, is it gives you some information going forward. And in fact, these two cases I talked to him about for an hour on Friday were sisters. They each had one puppy in their litters. Only one puppy. Valuable breeding dogs in a great breeding program, but only one puppy in each. Each of the puppies succumbed to different reasons.

So she ended up with two C-sections and no live puppies. One bitch had some pretty significant inflammatory changes, eosinophilic inflammatory changes. One bitch had completely normal uterine health. So again, that gives us a whole different sort of things. The one puppy that was born was deformed, but there was still only one. So you shouldn't see one puppy at a C-section. There should be a litter of puppies. And anytime we see only one or two puppies after a larger litter had been conceived, especially in the larger breed dogs, and we get down to one or two puppies at C-section, it's not unusual to see something wrong with that puppy too. It might be really, really small. There may have been some other changes in uterine health or physical health of the bitch that interfered with it. So I'd love to tell you that we could always find a cause, but we can't even in dairy cattle where there's a huge economic impact when heifers and cows lose pregnancies.

There's a ton of money that's been put into research on those because of the economic impact. Because if you don't have a baby calf, you don't have milk. If you don't have milk, you don't do anybody any good on the dairy farm. So a lot of money has been put into that. Not a lot of money has been put into this on the dog side. So if you have a breed club that's really desperate to find a place to put some research dollars and resorption or pyometras are of concern to you, the Therio Foundation can help you find someone that can do a study with this kind of information and try to chase it down. We need to know more and we need to have more veterinarians that are willing to submit samples in a controlled study with outcomes. So what happens the next time we breed her. Now that we know she had fibrosis, now that we know she had inflammatory changes, now we've medically managed her, what happens to the next time?

And we've had bitches go from zero puppy, zero puppy, zero puppies on three subsequent breedings to appropriately treating after uterine biopsy and having seven puppies. So you can sometimes manage these dogs. Can you always, of course not. There's no guarantee to fertility, but with the right information, with uterine biopsies, whether she was pregnant or not, it can be a really valuable piece of information for your veterinarian to now specifically manage, instead of just guessing and arm waving at what to do, we can give really specific diagnostics and treatments and nail it down and have good successful fertility.

Laura Reeves:

I'm loving the arm waving. I'm seeing this. I've got a visual.

Dr. Marty Greer:

You know. You've been to the vet.

Laura Reeves:

I don't know. I got nothing. Totally got it. Okay. So that I think is really, really interesting. And we've talked about all the strange and wonderful. We have had a couple of really great podcast topics on that. One of the things that you mentioned earlier that I thought we should maybe follow up on because I don't remember us talking about it at all is strictures. That is something that has cursed my... I mean, if I had one curse in my bitches is these recurring damn strictures, pitch band o-band, you name it. So I think that's something we could maybe talk about and how you can or cannot deal with those?

Dr. Marty Greer:

And we see all sorts. We can sometimes see just really tight vaginal lips. If you know that's the case, you can preemptively do an episiotomy. Send the bitch home, let her whelp, have her come back, put her back together. We can

have an episiotomy done at the time of whelping. And a couple of weekends ago I did two episiotomies the same weekend. Doesn't happen often, but it can be useful. Some strictures you can just reach in and either dilate or there's a band of tissue that can go horizontally. It can go vertically. You can sometimes just rupture those with your fingers. I've also seen those bands two inches wide, and those are not going to be something that you can reach in and just snap with your finger. I've seen bipartite vaginas, where each uterine horn, instead of joining in the uterine body and then coming down as one opening into the cervix and down into the vagina, I've seen it where it's bipartite.

And so puppies can bypass that and on one side or the other. So we've had some of those bitches' free whelp. There's a huge variety. Sometimes you can fix them before she's bred depending on what kind it is. If it's just all the way around tight, you're not going to be able to fix that. If it's all the way around tight far in, you're not going to find an episiotomy to fix that. If it's tight at the very opening of the vaginal lips or the nose of the puppy is out and that's as far as it's going to go because it's so tight, an episiotomy at that point can be done in an emergency basis. Or like I said, it can be scheduled. So there's a lot of different things you can do, but sometimes you end up just saying, you know what, if we breed this bitch, I can't fix this, nobody can fix this and you're going to end up with a C-section. Should I go ahead and put semen in this dog?

Are you okay with a C-section or are you going to say done, not going to breed this, or at least not going to breed her on this cycle until I get this corrected? But I think it's really important to have the conversation with your veterinarian before the breeding takes place. And that's part of what a routine pre-breeding exam should include with a veterinarian that does canine reproductive services. It's not just a physical exam to make sure that her gums are good and her teeth are lined up correctly and her heart is okay, and you've done all your health screenings, but you need to check the mammary glands. You need to check for umbilical and inguinal hernias, and you need to check the vaginal opening to make sure that you're not going to run into a situation with a stricture and get into a pickle at 2:00 AM when you were unprepared for that.

Laura Reeves:

And I've had bitches with strictures such that they could actually not be bred live cover. There was no way slot A was inserting into flat B. This was not happening.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Exactly. So in that case, you can do an assisted breeding, but the question is, do you want to. And if the bitch otherwise has a lot of great qualities, then yes, I would suggest that you go ahead and breed. If you have other strikes against her, then those are decisions that you have to make preferably not when you're standing there holding semen in your hand saying, okay, do we do this, or do we not do this because you have about five minutes to make a decision. It's much better to find those out ahead of time. So I like the pre-breeding exams to be done by a veterinarian that does a lot of canine reproductive services at the first progesterone test not when you've already spent \$600 progesterone testing, the semen's already sitting in that clinic, either fresh or frozen or you've collected it fresh. And you're like, okay, where are we going with this?

Laura Reeves:

Where are we going with this?

Dr. Marty Greer:

And then I've got people crying and people on the phone talking to their co-owner and a lot of drama can happen with this. So please find out at the very beginning, not when you're under the gun to make a breeding.

Laura Reeves:

Absolutely.

Dr. Marty Greer:

That's not the time.

Laura Reeves:

No, it's not the time. And I will never forget the first time I had this particular stretch of the line, the first bitch that I had a problem with. My boarded, theriogenologist vet during the exam and she's like, "I can pick her up." Yeah, it was horrible. So she was definitely a C-section and her daughter had the same problem. Now her granddaughter that I just whelped 13 puppies from did not. So hopeful that we've skipped away from that now.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Right. But we had one that came into us. She was being bred on Easter Sunday with frozen semen, with a TCI from another state. So the first time I got my hands on her was the day of the breeding. And I reached in and could feel a two-inch-wide band of tissue. And she said, well, can't you just reach in and snip it. And I'm like on Easter Sunday with me, my husband and you as the entire staff, a two inch, no, no. This is not an option. So if we put the semen in, you will have a C-section and she did. And she had nine puppies. She came back from the other state because she'd had an unfortunate experience in the state in which she lived. So she came back for her C-section and produced nine beautiful puppies, but not out the hole that God created for her.

Laura Reeves:

Well, we're going to save this one up for next month. The whole conversation about making smart breeding decisions as regards your bitches.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Oh yeah. There's a lot of material there.

Laura Reeves:

I mean, that's a whole long conversation and I can speak from personal experience of what I should or shouldn't have done and the benefits, the pluses, the minuses, whatever, but having the information. So I don't make any judgment about whatever decision you make, but I want you to make an informed decision.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Exactly. And I'm not here to be the breeding police. And I don't think that veterinarians wish to be, although there are a few, you can hear silence. There's a few, but in general, we just want to be here to educate and guide you.

Laura Reeves:

I'm dying.

Dr. Marty Greer:

You know the emergency clinic that won't do a C-section unless you spay her on the table. That's an entire topic there.

Laura Reeves:

That's an entire topic. Okay. So we're saving this one for next month. We are going to talk about, what is that? Ethics or good choices or I don't know. We'll have to figure a way to frame that, but I think that's a really good conversation to have.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yes. There's ethics. There's morals.

Laura Reeves:

All of that.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Yep. There's a lot.

Laura Reeves:

Okay. Marty, Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Thank you for everything that you have contributed to Pure Dog Talk in 2020.

Dr. Marty Greer:

Of course. Always happy to do it for you and Merry Christmas to you and all of your listeners. Have a great New Year. And remember the pandemic puppy book is out, Your Pandemic Puppy.

Laura Reeves:

Absolutely. We're pimping it all over the place.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So it's available on Amazon, \$19,95. \$9,95, if you want the Kindle version.

Laura Reeves:

Got it.

Dr. Marty Greer:

So Your Pandemic Puppy. Go for it.

Laura Reeves:

Excellent.

As always, if you have any questions or input, we'd love to hear from you. The show notes and links to resources on today's topic are available at puredogtalk.com. Drop us a note in the comments or email to laura@puredogtalk.com. Remember guys, this podcast is for you. So if you want to know something, give me a holler. We'll do a podcast for you. If you wouldn't mind, you could help me out here. Take a couple minutes to visit iTunes and give us a review. The Dog Show Superintendents Association is a proud supporter of Pure Dog Talk. Our dog show superintendents are the hardworking people who make the dog show function. They are advocates for education and mentorship in the purebred dog fancy. So stop by the super's desk at your next show. Tell them how much you love Pure Dog Talk and give them a shout out for their support. That's all for today. Thank you for joining us on Pure Dog Talk.