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# HORMONAL SUPPORT

Your guide to naturally  
supporting your bitch





# It's all about (hormonal) balance

Hormones are involved in a lot of the things that we love about our entire bitches, such as their caring nature and their strength of character.

These hormones naturally fluctuate but if the balance gets thrown off too far, it can cause problems.

Pseudo pregnancies (sometimes called false or phantom pregnancies) can affect un-neutered bitches in response to the normal hormonal fluctuations associated with their season. They usually start after the first or second season and unfortunately, if your dog has a tendency to these, she's likely to suffer season after season with symptoms of increasing severity.

## Signs of pseudo pregnancy

- Unsettled behaviour
- Change in body shape
- Nesting habits (carrying toys, looking for pups)
- Enlarged teats
- Depression
- Milk production

## Breeding

In addition to the physical changes that take place during pregnancy, your bitch also experiences hormonal fluctuations and providing her with some extra support can be really beneficial. Continue gentle exercise to maintain good body condition, as this will reap benefits when it comes to probably the most daunting part of the process – whelping. Gentle herbal support is a good option too, starting during the pre-breeding period to maintain good fertility and continuing right through to whelping and beyond, to help maintain strength in the uterus and normal hormone balance.



### Raspberry Leaf Tablets

Perfect for preparing pregnant bitches for whelping, by helping to maintain uterine muscle strength; start using three weeks after mating. To support those who experience phantom pregnancies, use every season from the first sign of her coming into season.

### Evening Primrose Oil

Well known for its ability to help maintain normal hormone balance, evening primrose oil can be useful in managing conditions associated with hormone imbalances outside of pregnancy, and we recommend giving to bitches after their season. It also helps maintain healthy skin and coat.

### Wheatgerm Oil Capsules

Naturally high in Vitamin E - often referred to as the 'fertility vitamin' - wheatgerm oil helps to maintain fertility and support the reproductive system in both bitches and dogs, so is ideal pre-mating. It also supports developing foetuses when used after mating.

### Scullcap & Valerian Tablets

Help ease the anxiety associated with phantom pregnancies with authenticated herbs, full of natural active compounds that naturally support the calming pathways within the nervous system, reducing anxiety without immobilising muscles or causing drowsiness.



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We've been supporting the health of dogs and cats for over 75 years as a family-run business, now in its third generation, and are proud to be the UK's leading provider of canine and feline herbal supplements. Whether it's providing personalised, knowledgeable advice or ensuring quality, purity, sustainability, and traceability for all our ingredients, consistent quality, expertise and care is built into everything that we do.

Should you require further information on other leaflets in our range or require advice either:

**Ask at your local stockist to speak to the Dorwest trained member of staff**

**Call Dorwest direct on 01308 897272 to speak to an expert advisor (9am – 4pm Monday to Friday)**