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Is the biparietal diameter of fetuses in late gestation too variable to predict readiness for cesarean section in dogs?

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2 **Is the biparietal diameter of fetuses in late gestation too variable to**3 **predict readiness for cesarean section in dogs?**

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14 Correct assessment of readiness for cesarean section is essential for timing elective
15 cesarean section during late pregnancy in the bitch. In humans, biparietal diameter is
16 sufficiently precise and accurate and used in a clinical setting daily. The objectives of this
17 study were to determine whether fetal biparietal diameter in late gestation in the dog
18 could be used to predict readiness for cesarean section by having reached a minimum cut-
19 off value and to correlate the biparietal diameter to birth weight. The biparietal diameter
20 of 208 puppies in 34 litters from 31 English bulldog bitches and 660 puppies in 78 litters
21 from 70 Boerboel bitches were measured immediately after delivery by cesarean section,
22 performed at full term, using digital calipers. At the same time the birth weight of the

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