**Pregnancy Calendar for The Perfect Peony 2013 – Litter #1**

**February-28-2013**  First day of mating.

 It's best to separate queen and tom 48 hours after the first mating. Subsequent matings occurring over a limited period of time enhance the release of Luteinizing Hormone from the pituitary gland. This hormone is needed for the final maturation of the ovarian follicles. One single mating would probably not be sufficient, but don't make the mistake of letting the two mate 'too' long (longer than three days) - it will be very difficult then to predict the date of confinement.

 The spermatozoa migrate up through the cervix.

**March-01-2013**

 Ovulation (the release of a mature egg from an ovarian follicle). The ovulation is induced by the act or acts of sexual intercourse. It usually takes place about 24 to 36 hours after intercourse.

**March-01-2013 March-02-2013**

 Spermatozoa reach the eggs in the oviducts.

**March-02-2013 March-03-2013**

 Fertilization occurs in the oviducts which lead from the ovaries to the uterus.

**March-03-2013 March-05-2013**

 Fertilized eggs migrate down the oviducts and into the uterine horns.

 The migration continue to enable even spacing of the embryos.

 During this migration the eggs will grow into a blastocystes.

**March-11-2013 March-13-2013**

 The blastocystes implant in the wall of the uterus.

**March-11-2013 March-25-2013**

 The blastocystes will grow into an embryos.

 During the next two weeks the important organs will develop.

**March-14-2013 March-21-2013**

 Queens nipples begin to pink up and slightly enlarge.

 The fur on the queens belly and around the nipples will become thinner.

**March-20-2013 March-27-2013**

 Morning sickness might occur due to hormonal changes or stretching and distension of the uterus. Queen may appear a bit apathetic. She may be off her feed for a while and vomit from time to time.

 Feeding the queen several meals spaced throughout the day might help.

 Your veterinarian may want to prescribe a drug to relax the uterus.

**March-25-2013 March-29-2013**

 An experienced person (a breeder or a veterinarian) can tell by careful palpation whether the queen is pregnant. It's now the best time to do this because the embryos are walnut-sized now and easy to count.

**March-28-2013**

 You can now start to increase the queens food ration. Premium quality commercial cat foods often have a 'kitten' formulated food. You might want to switch to this. Don't switch to another brand though.

 Don't overfeed, excessive weight gain should be avoided.

 The foetuses are about 25 to 30 millimetres now and are fully developed miniature cats.

**April-03-2013**

 The Queens abdomen starts to get larger.

**April-13-2013**

 It's very easy now to feel the kittens, counting them might be a bit more difficult.

**April 16 2013 to April 24 2013**

 Queen begins to spend a lot more time in self-grooming.

 Her breasts become even more swollen.

 She may become a bit restlessness and begin to search for a suitable place to have her kittens.

**April-18-2013**

 Queen begins to spend a lot more time in self-grooming.

 Her breasts become even more swollen.

 She may become a bit restlessness and begin to search for a suitable place to have her kittens.

**April-18-2013 May-03-2013**

 If your queen has difficulties grooming herself, you might want to help her. Nipples and vulva should be gently cleaned with warm water, you might want to trim the hairs surrounding the nipples, to allow easier access for the kittens to suck. Do not remove the hair completely, some breeds are born with sharp talons which can tear the skin around the nipples.

**April-28-2013 May-01-2013**

 Milky fluid may be expressed from the nipples.

**April-29-2013**

 You might want to start taking the queens rectal temperature each morning.

**May-02-2013**

 Twelve to 24 hours before she is due to deliver, the queens rectal temperature may drop from 38.5 to 37.5 degrees Celsius.

 Clear or blood-tinged discharge from the vulva might occur.

**May-03-2013**

 Expected date of confinement. Of course this is just an average. Parturition may take place from the 59th to the 70th day. Kittens born before the 58th day will probably be too young to survive.