

## Length of pregnancy

Length of pregnancy is calculated as the interval from the last fertile mating to parturition and it's may be called gestation period.

The gestation length are varying between the species, the following is the gestation period in some animals:

**Cattle**      **280 ± 5 days**

**Sheep**      **148 ± 5 days**

**Horses**      **338 ± 15 days**

**Dog**      **60 ± 5 days**

### The length of gestation is influenced by:

1. **Genetic factors:** the small variation in pregnancy duration among breeds within species may be due to genetic factors.

2. **Fetal factors :**

**Fetal sex:** Male calves and foals are carried 1 to 2 days longer than female.

**Twinning:** Twin calves are carried 3 to 6 days less than singles.

**Life of the fetus:** late fetal death or abnormalities of the pituitary or adrenal glands will extend gestation in cattle, sheep and swine.

3. **Maternal factors:**

The age of dam influence the duration of pregnancy with in species ex. Young heifers carry their calves for a slightly shorter period than older.

4. **Environmental factors:**

**Season;** in seasonal animals like horse the foals conceived in summer have significantly shorter gestation period than those conceived at start of breeding season in early spring.

**Nutrition:** Well-fed mares have gestation period length about 4 days shorter than those on maintenance ration.