

## HOW TO ASSIST WITH A BREEDING

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Here's what I do, given normal libido and courting behavior on the part of the bitch and the dog. I make it a rule to always have two people present; one to manage the bitch and the other to assist the dog. All conversation between the helpers or addressing the dogs is conducted in a cheery tone, with no reprimands or loud voices allowed:

1. The dog is allowed in the area in which the breeding is going to take place. He has a collar on but no lead.
2. The bitch is brought into the breeding area, on lead.
3. The dog and bitch are allowed to greet each other and court a little bit. If the bitch is pleasant, she will be allowed the length of the lead for courting and flirting. The dog remains loose, to move about as he deems fit.
4. When the dog attempts to mount, the holder of the bitch walks up QUIETLY, shortening the lead until he/she is holding the bitch's head with both hands, but staying in front of her so as not to interfere with or intimidate the dog. It is helpful and safer to take a wrap or two around the bitch's muzzle with the lead (always use a leather lead for breeding – never chain or nylon, obviously!). The person helping with the dog moves QUIETLY to the side to assist the dog if he needs it.
5. The dog helper will quietly but firmly remove the dog if he misses the target and begins to thrust and/or ejaculate outside the bitch. The dog is walked around by his collar until his erection goes back down. Then he is released to approach the bitch again.
6. When the dog successfully penetrates and begins to tread, the dog helper gently but firmly pushes the dog forward to assist in obtaining a tie. With small breeds, this can be done from the side by placing one hand on the dog's croup and the other up under the bitch's tummy right in front of her stifles. With larger breeds, the helper should stand behind the pair and push forward with the knee or thigh while leaning forward and grasping the bitch's stifles, one in each hand. The reason for supporting the bitch, of course, is to avoid having the weight of the dog plus your "push" cause the bitch to collapse or sit down.
7. When the dog finishes treading and the tie has formed, the dog helper can stop pushing and just steady the dog by the collar on top of the bitch. He will want to rest up there for a minute or so.
8. When the dog is ready, he will want to dismount. He should be allowed to choose which side he wishes to dismount toward. The dog helper should continue to steady him by the collar as he slides his front legs off. A maiden male may be hesitant or may need some assistance in pulling his far-side front leg over. In this case, the dog helper may resume his/her "push" position to help assure that the tie isn't unduly strained during the dismount.
9. Upon both front legs reaching the ground on one side of the bitch, the opposite side hind leg will come up and the dog will likely want to turn all the way around. The dog helper will again put one hand (or arm) under the bitch to keep her from sinking down, and GENTLY assist the dog in pulling his hind leg over the top of the bitch so he can turn around and have all four feet on the ground.
10. The dog helper then positions himself/herself at the side of the dog and bitch, who are now butt-to-butt, and holds the stifles or tummies of both dogs so that they remain standing for the remainder of the tie.
11. When the tie breaks, the bitch is made to lay down right there on the spot by the bitch helper. She is not allowed to rise or to urinate for about 15 minutes. If the breeding was conducted outdoors, the male, not on lead, is allowed to wander off and urinate. The dog should then be taken out of the presence of the bitch. If the breeding was conducted indoors, the dog is taken directly outside by the dog helper and allowed to urinate. In either case, the dog helper stays with the dog long enough to observe that the sheath has returned to its normal position, completely covering the penis, and that the dog's erection has dissipated completely.