

Why do cats get pregnant so quickly?



Cats are seasonally poly-estrous. They are not like dogs. A female dog has reproductive cycles (estrous cycles, "heat" cycles) that last around 3 to 4 weeks, and most of them cycle twice per year, at no particular time. Cats shut down the kitten-maker in the late fall and winter, when the food supply is less certain for them (in nature, anyway). With spring, they begin to cycle constantly. They are "in heat" (sexually receptive and fertile) for four days, out for eight, in for four, out for eight, in for four, etcetera. This continues until the cat gets pregnant, or next winter, whichever comes first. A cat in heat tends to act a little crazy, yowling and assuming odd postures and behaviors.

Cats are induced ovulators, which means that the ovaries don't release the eggs until mating takes place. This means that when cats are trying to make babies, they don't "miss the day" of ovulation. When it comes to getting pregnant, they are reliable little machines.