

KEY VOCABULARY

gestation period

the **time in which a foetus develops**, beginning with fertilization and ending at birth (it lasts nine months in humans)

adolescence

the **period** following the onset of puberty during which a **young person develops from a child into an adult**

puberty

the period during which adolescents **reach sexual maturity and become capable of reproduction**

hormone

a chemical released in a gland that travels to other parts of the body where it **helps control how cells and organs do their work**

growth stage

**infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood** are human growth stages before old age

changes in puberty

- muscles and bones grow larger
- females develop breasts and their hips widen
- males shoulders widen and their voice deepens
- both females and males grow hair under their arms and around their genitals
- females start menstruating (periods begin)
- males produce sperm in testes
- hormonal changes produce mood swings



human growth stages

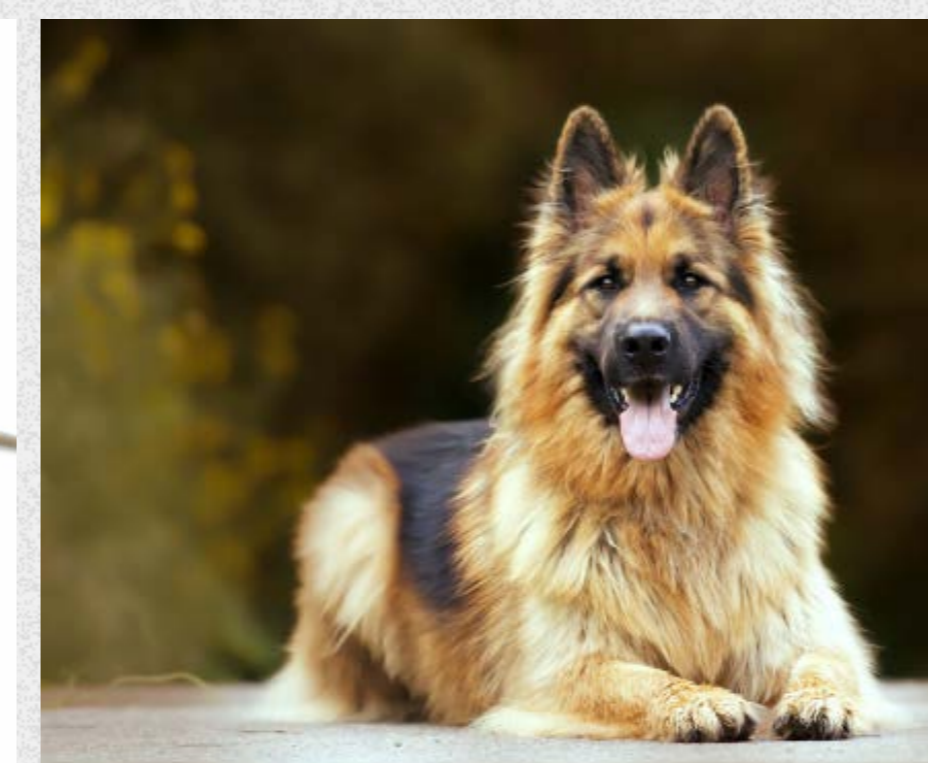
gestational periods

mouse



20 days

dog



2 months

polar bear



8 months

human



9 months

elephant



21 months