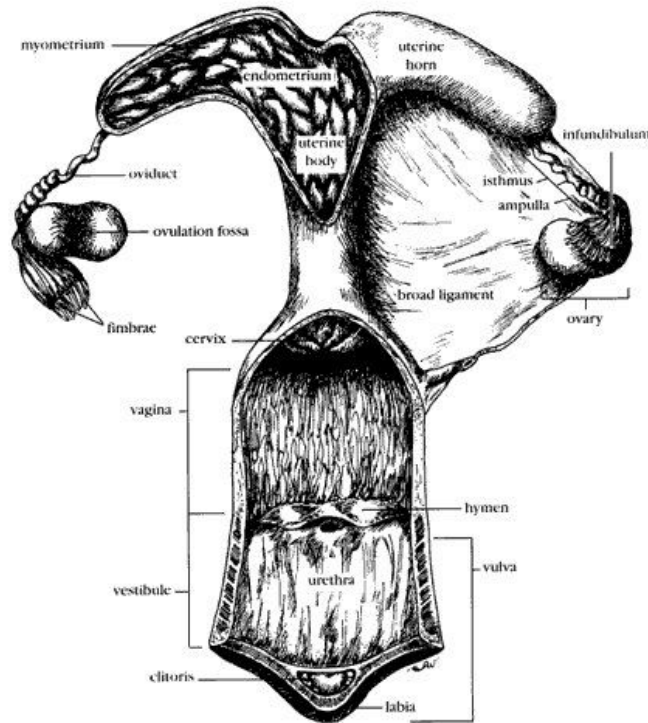
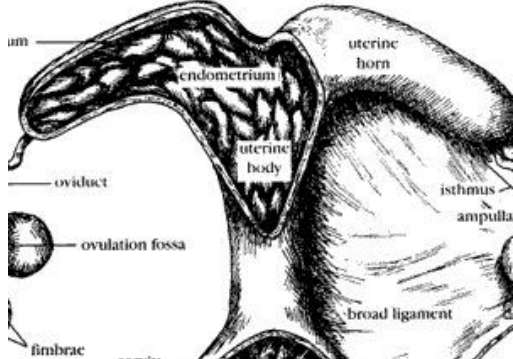


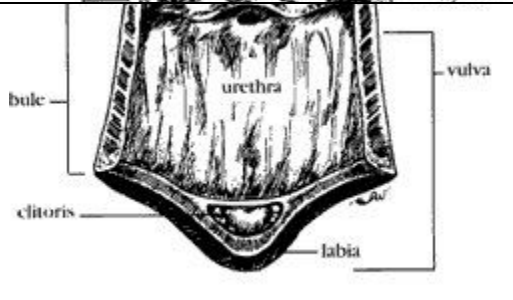


## Reproductive System

Female: The female reproductive tract includes ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, cervix, vagina, clitoris, and vulva.



<p>Ovaries</p>	<p>Ovaries are organs that produce hormones, release eggs every 21- 23 days to be fertilized, involved in estrus cycle</p>	
<p>Fallopian tubes</p>	<p>Also known as oviducts, the muscular tubing that forms a pathway for the egg to travel down to a uterine horn. This is also the location of fertilization.</p>	

Uterus	Location of growing fetus, open cavity in the body that produces secretions to support a fetus.	
Cervix	Forms a physical barrier between the uterus and vagina. Has long folds.	
Vagina	Extends from the cervix to the outside of the reproductive tract.	
Vulva	Outside entrance into the reproductive tract.	

**Ovum:** The ovum, also known as an egg, carries the DNA of its producer. When the mature egg of a mare and a mature sperm of a stallion come together, it is known as fertilization. Fertilization of an egg that is able to mature will result in a pregnant mare.

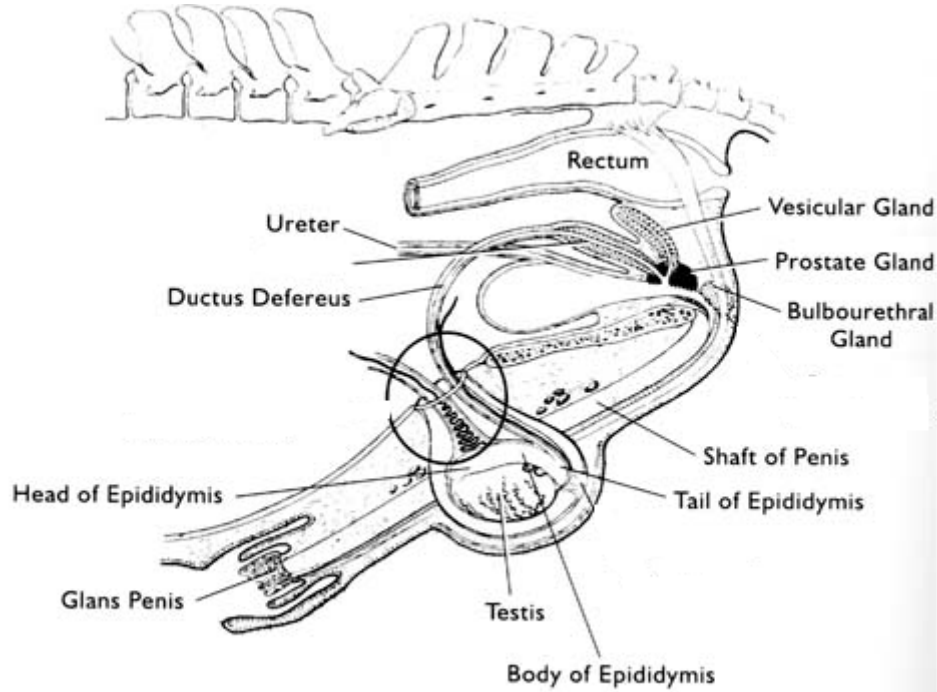
**Estrus Cycle:** A mare, when not pregnant, goes through an estrous cycle every 21 – 23 days during months with long days, such as the spring and summer. The estrous is the development of an ovum until it is ready to be released from the ovary. The first part of the cycle is called anestrus, when a mare is not ready to be bred by a stallion. The second part called estrus, also called “heat,” is when the mare is receptive to breeding, or will allow a stallion to breed her.

**Ovulation:** Ovulation is when an ovum is released from the ovary and occurs during estrus.

**Pregnant Mare:** A fetus, or growing immature foal, is held in the uterus until it is ready for parturition, or to be born. The uterus produces many secretions and hormones that help support the baby by nourishing it.

Gestation: gestation is another word for pregnancy, and in mares it lasts from 335 – 340 days.

Male reproductive system:



Scrotum	The scrotum of a stallion is a sac that holds the testis in place. It relaxes and contracts for thermoregulation of the testis.
Testis (2)	The testicles are where sperm is produced in a series of small tubules known as seminiferous tubules. The hormone testosterone is produced here, which sometimes can make a stallion hard to work with.
Epididymis	The epididymis is where all the seminiferous tubules come together, it helps transport sperm out of the testis, and provides a place

	for them to mature and be stored until ready to leave.
Vas Deferens (2) aka Ductus deferens	The tail end of the epididymis turns into the vas deferens. The vas deferens has a thick wall of muscle that helps move the matured sperm to the penis.
Penis	The penis of the stallion has a head, body and glans. This is where sperm and urine are ejected from when necessary. Sperm is ejected with semen, which is a fluid to help in sperm transport.
Prepuce	The prepuce is the sheath of skin that covers the penis when it is not erect.
Accessory sex glands: Vesicular Bulbourethral Prostate	Accessory sex glands help contribute to the semen that leaves the penis so that it is able to fertilize the egg of a mare.

Sperm: Sperm are important carriers of their producer's DNA. They swim up the vagina, cervix, uterus, and oviduct of the female reproductive tract to reach the female's mature egg and fertilize it.

Gelding: A male horse is gelded if it is not wanted for reproduction. Gelding a horse is when the testicles are removed so that sperm is no longer produced. Since the testes also make testosterone the male horse will no longer have testosterone either and will be much more calm and easy to work with and ride.