



Infectious Diseases of the Reproductive Tract





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- **Diseases that affect the reproductive system can have substantial detrimental effects on an animal, herd, or producer**
- **Such effects can be felt long after an animal or herd recovers from disease**
 - Infertility - Inability to conceive consistently
 - Abortion
 - Lactation and meat production losses
 - General health making animals more susceptible to other diseases
 - Weight loss and ill-thrift





Reproductive Tract Examination

- **A complete clinical examination with emphasis on the reproductive should be conducted**
- **The examination should include:**
 - Evaluation from a distance
 - Collection of a complete history from the owner
 - Thorough physical examination
- **Once the examination is completed the veterinarian should consider completing an assessment that includes:**
 - Subjective findings – observations
 - Objective findings – physical examination parameters
 - Assessment – conclusions based on subjective and objective findings
 - Plan – establishing a plan to confirm the clinical diagnosis and therapeutic plan

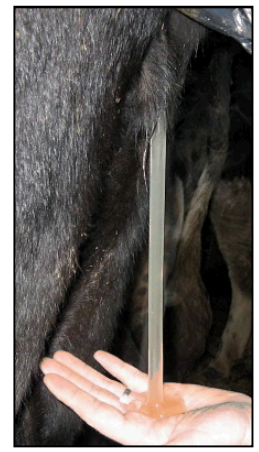
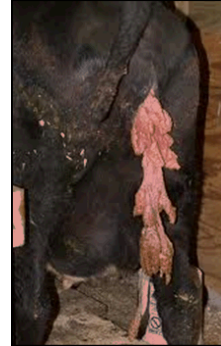
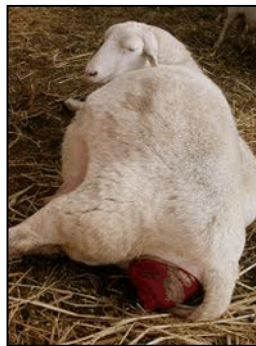
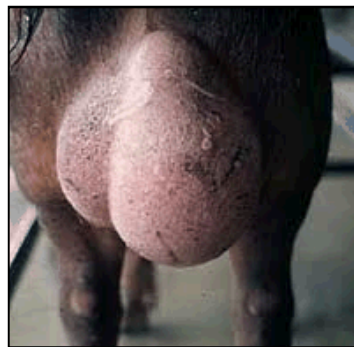


Examination from a Distance: Reproductive Tract

- **The animal being examined should be handled as little as possible to allow for a more accurate assessment**
 - Animal should be as relaxed as possible
- **Examination of the reproductive tract from a distance should include:**
 - Posture: Is the animal standing with back hunched? Does the animal seem painful?
 - Urination : Is the animal urinating normally? Is the animal straining to urinate?
 - Prepuce (males): Is the prepuce swollen?
 - Vulva (females): Is the vulva swollen? Is there any abnormal discharge?
 - Abdominal shape: Is the abdomen larger than expected?
 - Is there a calf? And if so is lactation normal?



Examination from a Distance: Reproductive Tract

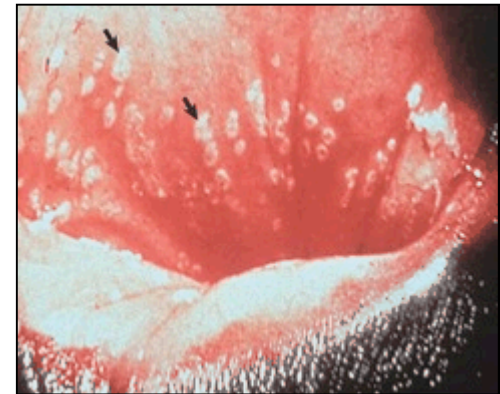




Physical Examination of the Reproductive Tract Female

- **Vulva and vaginal wall**

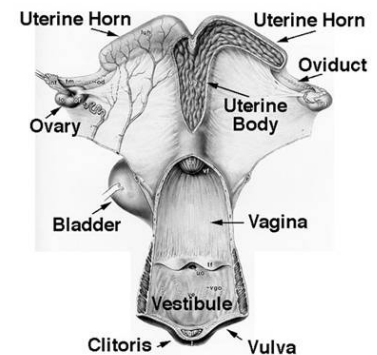
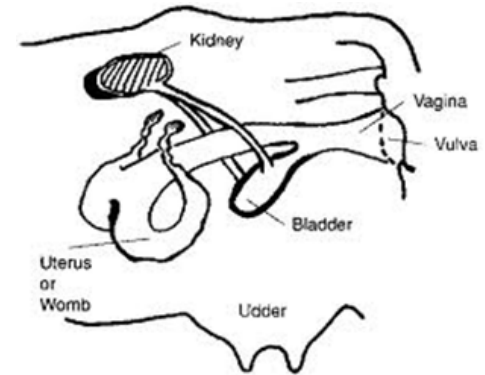
- Examine for mucous membrane color, erosions, and/or presence of edema
- The presence or absence of discharge and the character of the discharge





Physical Examination of the Reproductive Tract Female

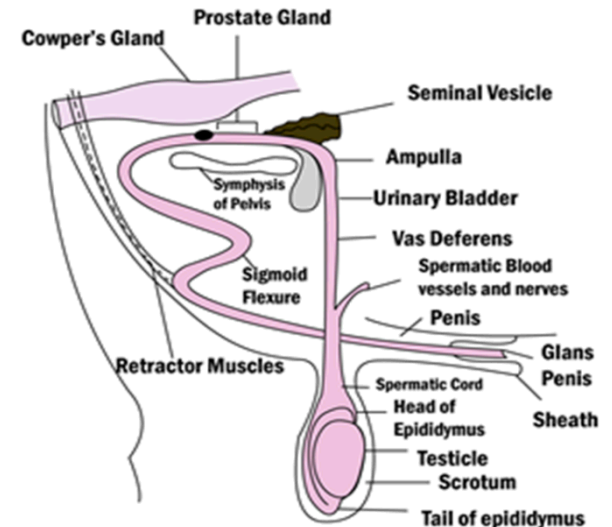
- **Rectal palpation in cattle and horses**
 - Should be done with a sleeve over gloved hand
 - **Cleanliness and lubrication**
 - Enter rectum and palpate structures
 - **Brim of the pelvis**
 - **Bladder**
 - **Cervix-firm, elongated structure with rings felt posteriorly**
 - **Uterus**
 - Feel body and horns for fluid, “ membrane slip” and fetus
 - Ovaries
 - Feel at the end of L or R horn
 - Feel for follicles and corpus luteum tissue
 - Can tell stage of estrus, confirm pregnancy, age pregnancy, or assess the condition of the uterus (pyometra, metritis)





Physical Examination of the Reproductive Tract Male

- **Examine the prepuce and penis**
 - Examine for erosions, edema, discharge
- **Examine the ventral abdomen for signs of edema**
- **Transrectal palpation**
 - Palpation sleeve over gloved hand
 - **Cleanliness and lubrication**
 - Enter rectum and palpate accessory sex organs
 - Palpate the urinary bladder for size
 - Palpate the left kidney for size





Assessment and Plan

- **Make note of all subjective and objective findings**
- **Assessment:**
 - Compile the results of your findings and develop a list of differential diagnoses
- **Plan:**
 - Use your assessment to develop a plan
 - Additional diagnostic testing to confirm or rule out a diagnosis
 - Treatment plan
 - Address epidemiology and transmission concerns if appropriate