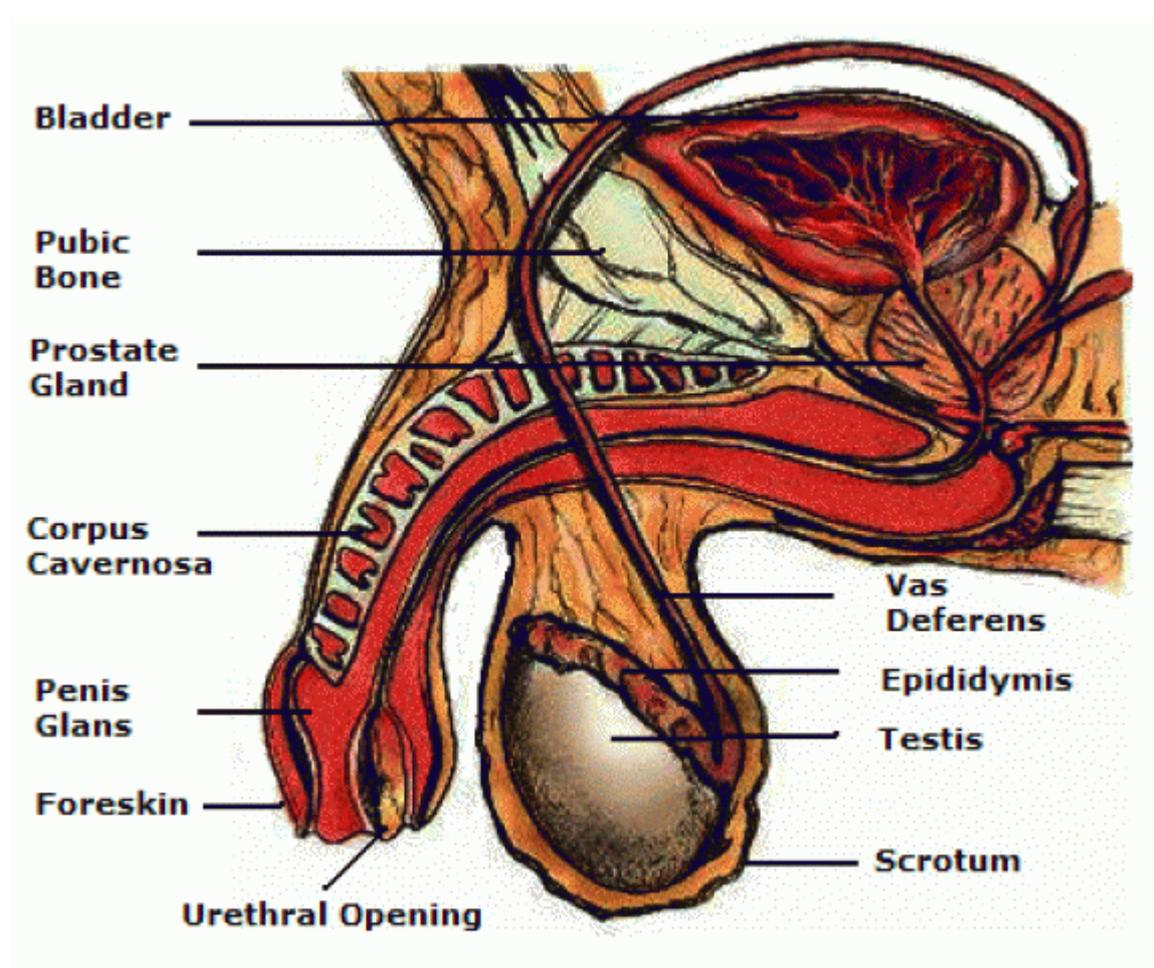
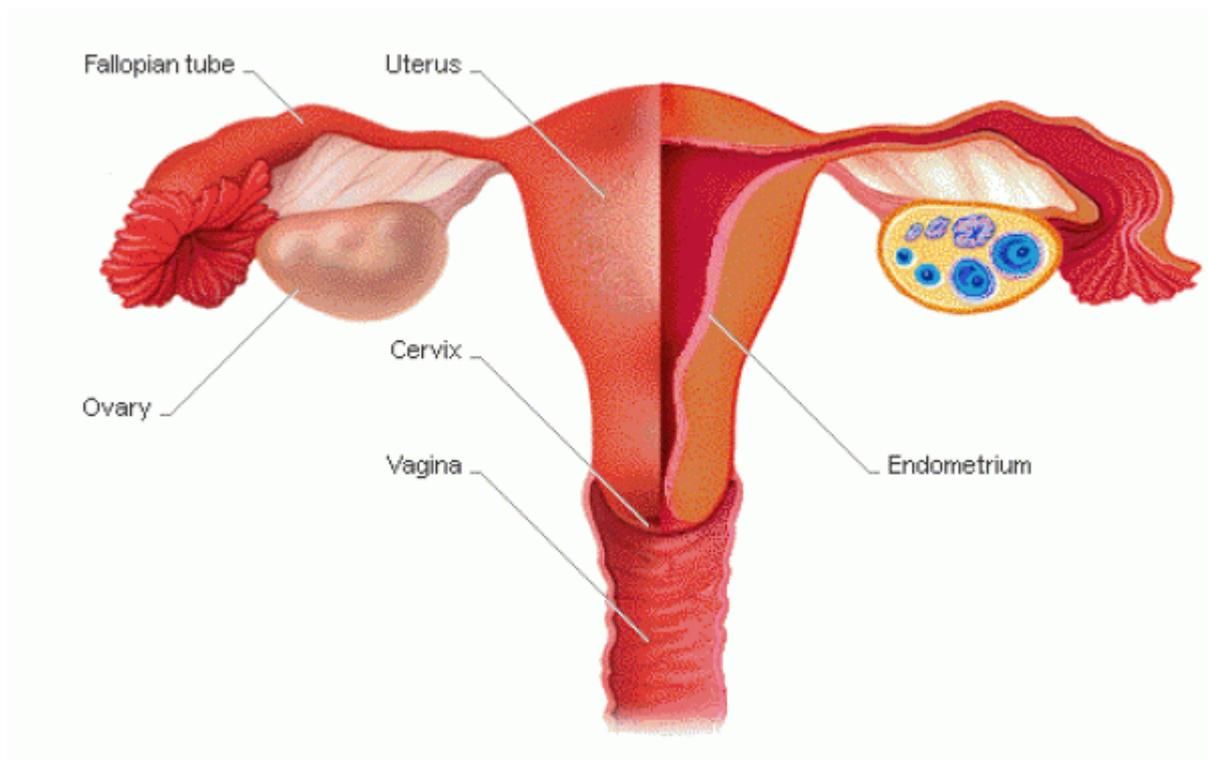


Reproduction in Animals

The male reproductive organ



The female reproductive system



MENSTRUAL CYCLE

At age 10-15 the female's body starts producing enough follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) to be released into the blood stream. FSH is secreted by the pituitary gland. The presence of FSH stimulates the development of the ovum in the follicle. Oestrogen produced in the follicle will start the development of secondary sexual characteristics- breasts, hair in armpits, hair in pubic area, broadening of the hips.

Every 28 days an ovum matures and will burst from the follicle. This is ovulation. The egg is deposited into the fallopian tube (oviduct), which is lined with cilia. Cilia help to move the egg towards the uterus. The remains of the follicle cells are now given the name corpus luteum (yellow body). The presence of the yellow body stimulates the production of the hormone progesterone which causes the lining of the uterus to thicken in preparation for a fertilized egg.

If the egg remains unfertilized the wall of the uterus will break down, blood, mucus along with the unfertilized egg will be discharged through the vagina. The menstrual flow lasts about 5 days. After 14 days a new follicle starts to develop and ovulation occurs marking the start of the new cycle.

If the egg is fertilized, it is implanted in the thickened wall of the uterus by about the 21st day. The blood vessels will provide the developing embryo with the necessary nutrients for growth.

The Menstrual cycle time line

