

ASA Presentation Notes Lesson 6.3

Unit Name: Unit 6 Animal Reproduction

Lesson Topic: Lesson 6.3 The Pathway to Production

Presentation on: Stages of Reproduction

Puberty.

- The time when sexual maturity is reached.
- Influenced mostly by age and weight.
- In males, sperm production begins.
- In females, estrous cycle begins.

Estrous Cycle.

- ♀ The reproductive cycle in females in preparation for pregnancy.
- ♀ Controlled by hormones.
- ♀ Length is dependent on species.

Types of Estrous Cycles.

- ♀ **Polyestrous** – several estrous cycles in a year (e.g., cats, cows and pigs)
- ♀ **Seasonally polyestrous** – more than one estrous cycle during a specific time of the year:
 - Short-day breeders – fall or winter (e.g., sheep and goats)
 - Long-day breeders – spring and summer (e.g., horses)
- ♀ **Diestrous** – heat twice per year (e.g., dogs)
- ♀ **Constant estrus** – able to conceive at almost any moment (e.g., rabbits)

Estrus.

- ♀ Period of time when the female is receptive to the male.
 - Also called heat.
- ♀ Estrogen level is high, progesterone level is low.
- ♀ Signs of estrus in females:
 - Nervousness.
 - Swelling of the vulva.
 - Frequent urination.

Estrous vs. Menstrual Cycle.

- ♀ Hormonal control is similar in both.
- ♀ Estrous Cycle.
 - Endometrium is reabsorbed.

- Only sexually receptive when in heat.
- ♀ Menstrual Cycle.
 - Endometrium is expelled.
 - Sexually active at any time in cycle.

Gestation.

- The length of time from conception to birth of young.
- Also known as pregnancy.
- Length varies greatly among species.
- Fetus develops in uterus or uterine horn.

Parturition.

- The act of giving birth.
- Initiated by hormones released from fetus.
- Signs of parturition:
 - Restlessness.
 - Swelling of vulva and udder.
 - Uterine contractions.

Lactation.

- The period of milk secretion.
- Begins at parturition and ends at weaning.
- Exception – dairy cattle.
 - Lactation period extends until the cow is dried off prior to calving.

ASA Reflection Page

List 5 key points that are important to remember from this presentation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List 3 ideas or concepts that this new information has in common with previous things learned.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List questions or ideas that remain unclear about the information presented that should be asked for clarity at the appropriate time.