

REPRODUCTIVE CYCLE

Features of the Reproductive Cycle

Species	Age at Puberty	Cycle Type	Cycle Length	Duration Of Heat	Best Breeding Time	First Heat After Parturitions	Gestation Periods	Remarks
Cat	4-12 months 10 months av); 12-18 months in Persians	Provoked ovulation. Seasonally polyestrous. Spring and early fall.	14-21 days..	6-7 days.	Daily from day 2 of estrus.	4-6 weeks.	58-70 days.	Ovulation 24-48 hours after coitus. Pseudo pregnancy lasts 36 days. Infertile matings prolong the onset of the next cycle 45 days.
Dog	5-24 months. Earlier in smaller breeds. Later in larger breeds.	Unseasonally monstrosus.	3 1/2 -13 months	2-21 days (6-12 av.)	From day 2 of estrus, and on alternate days thereafter until end of heat.	Few months (a 2-3 1/2 month period of metestrus, followed by a highly variable period of anestrus).	58-70 days.	Proestrous bleeding 7-10. Ovulation usually 1-3 days after first acceptance, Ova shed before 1st polar body has been extruded. Pseudopregnancy (pseudocycsis) usually ends between 60 and 70 days.
Cattle*	4-18 (12) months. Usually first bred about 15 months.	Polyestrous, all year.	21 days (18-24).	18 hours (10-24).	Insemination, from mid-heat until 6 hours after end.	Varies, * best to breed at 60-90 days.	280-290 days.	Ovulation 10-12 hours after end of heat. Uterine bleeding about 24 hours after ovulation in most.
Horse	10-24 (18) months.	Early spring on.	Very variable, about 21 days (19-26)	6 days	Last few day, should be bred at 2-day intervals.	4-14 days (9).	335-345 days. (heavy) 330-337 days. (light)	Ovulation 1-2 days before end of heat. Twins are usually aborted.
Sheep	7-12 (9) months.	Seasonally polyestrous. Early fall to winter. Prolonged seasons in Dorsets and Merinos..	16 1/2 days. (14-20).	24-48 hours.	Little significance.	Next Fall.	144-147 days. (mutton breeds) 148-151 days. (wool breeds)	Ovulation near end of heat.
Swine	4-9 (7) months.	Polyestrous, all year.	21 days (16-24).	2-3 days	Little significance.	4-10 days after weaning.	112-115 days.	Ovulation usually about 46 hours after beginning of heat.
Goat	4-8 (5) months.	Seasonally olyestrous from early fall to late winter.	18-21 days (19).	2-3 days.	Daily during estrus.	Next Fall.	145-155 days	Many intersexes born in hornless strains
Fox	10 months.	Monstrosus. December to March, but mostly late January to February.		2-4 days.		Next Winter.	49-55 days.	Ovulation usually on 1st or 2nd day of receptivity. Ova shed before 1st polar body has been extruded. No proestrous bleeding.

*Many normal cows ovulate as early as 8-12 days after parturition with or without detectable external signs of estrus.