

Lesson 6.3 Glossary

A

Anestrus – The nonbreeding season; the period of time when a female is not cycling.

C

Calving – The term for the act of giving birth in cattle.

D

Diestrus – The period of the estrous cycle that occurs between metestrus and proestrus.

E

Estrogen – A hormone or group of hormones produced by the developing ovarian follicle; it stimulates female sex drive and controls the development of feminine characteristics.

Estrous cycle – The reproductive cycle in non-primates, it is measured from the beginning of estrus or heat period to the beginning of the next.

Estrus – The period of sexual excitement (i.e., heat), at which time the female will accept coitus with the male.

F

Farrowing – The term for the act of giving birth in swine.

Foaling – The term for the act of giving birth in horses.

Follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) – A hormone, produced by the pituitary gland, which promotes growth of ovarian follicles in the female and sperm in the male.

G

Gestation period – The length of time from conception to birth of young.

H

Heat – An animal that is in estrus and ready to breed.

Hormone – A chemical substance formed in some organ of the body, secreted directly into the blood, and carried to another organ or tissue, where it produces a specific effect.

K

Kidding – The term for the act of giving birth in goats.

L

Lactation – The period of milk secretion. Usually begins at parturition and ends when offspring are weaned, or in the case of dairy cattle, the animal is dried up.

Lambing – The term for the act of giving birth in sheep.

Littering – The term for the act of giving birth in cats.

Luteinizing hormone (LH) – In animals, a hormone of the anterior pituitary gland that stimulates ovulation and development of the corpus luteum in females and secretion of testosterone by the interstitial cells in males.

M

Menstrual cycle – A recurring cycle in humans and primates in which the endometrial lining of the uterus prepares for pregnancy; if pregnancy does not occur the lining is shed at menstruation.

Metestrus – The phase of the estrous cycle on non-primates following estrus and characterized by the development of the corpus luteum and the preparation of the uterus for pregnancy.

P

Parturition – The act of giving birth.

Polyestrous – Refers to an animal that has several estrous cycles in a breeding season.

Pregnancy – The condition of a female having a living fetus in the uterus that occurs after the ovum has been fertilized by the male sperm cell.

Proestrus – The phase of the estrous cycle just before estrus; characterized by the development of the ovarian follicle.

Progesterone – A hormone produced by the corpus luteum of the ovary that functions in preparing the uterus for pregnancy and maintaining it if it occurs.

Puberty – The time when sexual maturity is reached. In the female, ova on the ovaries begin to develop. In males, sperm production is initiated in the testicles.

W

Wean – To make a young animal cease to depend on its mother's milk.

Whelping – The term for the act of giving birth in dogs.