

Pig Uterus Observation

Uterine Structure

1. What is the major structural difference between the uterus of this animal as compared to a human uterus?
2. What might be an advantage of this unique shape that works well for how a pig reproduces?

Observe the exterior structure of the uterus:

- Locate the following: the Cervix, the Fallopian Tubes, the Ovaries.

Observe one of the cut regions of the uterine wall:

3. What are the dark dots scattered throughout the wall?
4. What is the name of the folded inner lining of the uterus?
5. What is the function of this layer?
6. Is this inner lining always this thick and well developed? Explain.
7. What is the dense, thick, rubbery layer called and what is it made of?
8. What is the role of this layer?
9. What is the name of the glossy outer layer of the uterus?

Gestational Structures

10. How many fetuses would you estimate this uterus contains?
11. What is the name of the thin membrane surrounding some of the fetuses?
 - What is this membrane usually filled with?
 - What is the purpose of this membrane and associated fluid?
 - What medical procedure is used to test for fetal defects by sampling fetal cells from this fluid with a VERY large needle?
 - What phrase describes the loss of this structure prior to birth?
12. Observe a fetus that has this membrane removed. What is the structure that attaches it to the uterine wall?
13. What do you call the mass of tissue this structure attaches to?
 - Who does it belong to?
 - What is the function of this mass of tissue?
 - What is the name for this tissue when it is eliminated during labor?
14. Since there are many fetuses in this uterus, they would be considered twins in human terms. Are they most likely identical or fraternal twins? How were they formed (how many sperm and egg were required)?