

Reproductive Cycle in vertebrates:

(A) Estrous Cycle (Mammals)

In mammals some major events occur in the female at puberty. These mark the start of Estrous Cycle. These are ripening of follicles, rupture of follicles and release of Ova and behaviour of the female. The first two events are regulated by Gonadotropic hormone secreted by Anterior pituitary gland & third one is under the control of ovarian hormones. Continuous breeders undergo repeated cycle of sexual activity & permit copulation at a particular period, the heat or estrous. The period from beginning of one heat till the start of the next is known as Estrous Cycle. It is divided into following phases:

(i) Estrous (Heat period) - It is the period in which the ovarian follicles, become large & secrete much estrogen which is responsible for psychological changes for heat & permitting mating (copulation). Ex. Cat - 9-15 hrs, cow 18 hrs, pig - 4 days, Petch (female dog) - 9 days.

(ii) Metestrus - It is the phase in which ovulation occurs & corpus luteum formed. It is under the influence of Progesterone.

(iii) Proestrus - It is the phase in which the follicles ripen.

(iv) Diestrus - It is the resting phase or phase of sexual inactivity (Three times) in year. Ex. Cat, Dog etc.