

The Physiology and Technology of Reproduction in Female Domestic Animals

R.H.F. Hunter

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This work presents a summary of our knowledge of the basic reproductive physiology of female domestic animals and discusses the ways in which the reproductive processes can be modified or manipulated to increase animal productivity. The emphasis is largely on physiology and technology in meat-producing animals – cattle, sheep and pigs – but horses are also dealt with, and much of the information cited is derived from studies on small laboratory species.

Long before the genetic basis for the inheritance of characteristics was understood, it was realized that the features of an animal strain could be enhanced by selective breeding. Our present knowledge of genetics and the physiology of reproduction allows us great control over animal numbers and the attributes of the animals bred. Breeding programmes are currently under way in many developing areas of the world to improve the strains of livestock farmed.

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EDITED BY

PROF. SIR J. W. L. BEAMENT, SC.D., F.R.S., Department of Applied Biology, Cambridge

G. D. H. BELL, C.B.E., PH.D., SC.D.(*h.c.*), D.SC.(*h.c.*), F.R.S., 6 Worts Causeway, Cambridge

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J. A. CURRIE, PH.D., Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden

S. K. ELTRINGHAM, PH.D., Department of Applied Biology, Cambridge

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University of Reading

F. YATES, C.B.E., SC.D., F.R.S., Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden

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