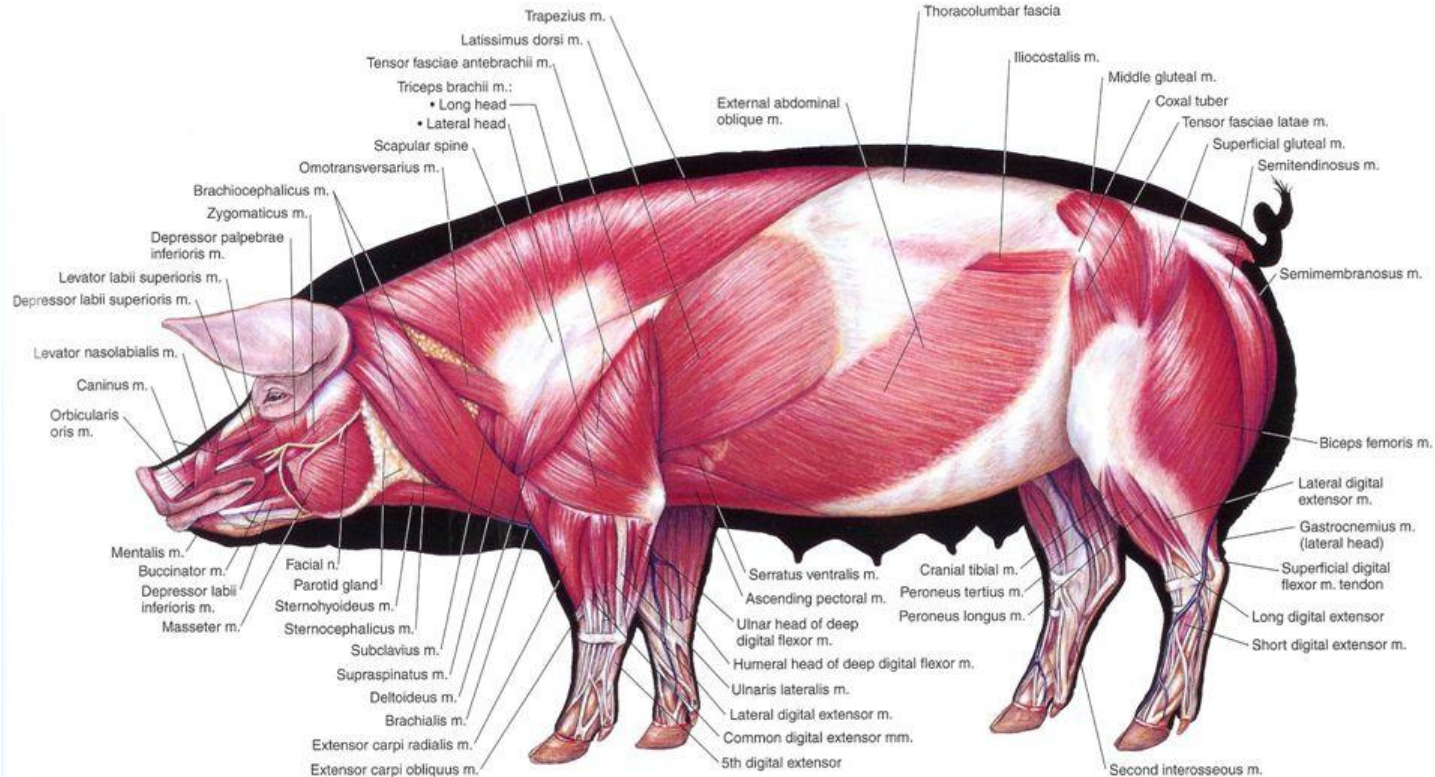


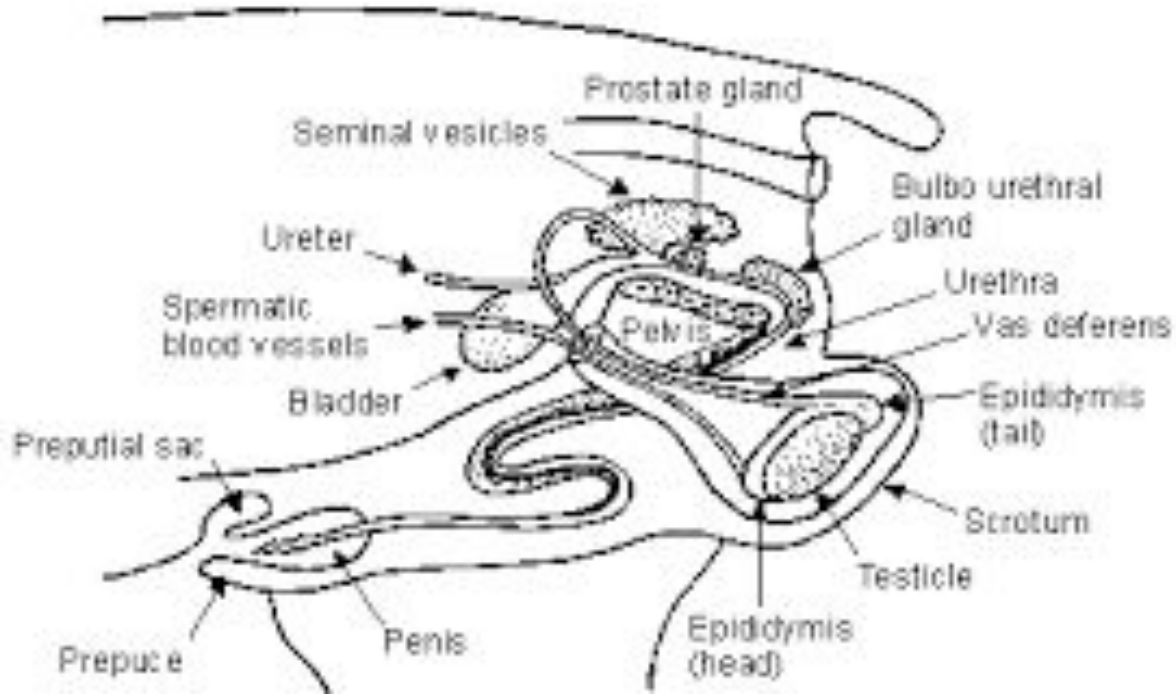
CASE FIVE:

A 4 year old breeding boar has come to the end of its reproductive life. Farmer Seepaul would like to reduce the taint in the meat. However, on physical examination, this animal has one testicle that is larger than the other. How will Dr Nyack proceed?

The General Anatomy of the Pig!



The Reproductive Tract of the Boar



The Breeding Boar

The breeding boar is a very important member of the herd. He has more influence than the average sow. A farmer must carefully select his breeding boar to improve the genetic make up of the progeny. A breeding boar should be proven!

Video Link for one farm's experience:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4K2KV6bJHI>

Selecting a Breeding Boar

- A breeding boar should have undergone performance testing.
- A breeding boar should be of superb health; no parasites or diseases. This is why breeding boars are quarantined before introduction to the herd.
- A breeding boar should have good conformation, toes and pasterns. He should not be lame in any way.

Some Husbandry Practices

- Boars should be housed in close proximity to sows. This is to maintain their courting and serving behavior.
- A boar can serve anywhere between 15-18 sows. Sows can be served in batches. This will dictate how many boars are needed on the farm. Farms that utilise artificial insemination will require less boars.
- A boar should be used when he has reached between 28-30 weeks. He must be trained! He will serve until he is 3 years of age or even older in some cases if he really is that great an animal and his performance does not drop.

Training a New Boar

- The aim of this exercise is to train the boar that the fruit or courting and mounting is mating.
- Confidence: Smaller, quieter gilts who will stand are used. Older, more experienced gilts can scare the boar off leading to frustration and declination to work.
- Bad Habits: This refers to serving in the rectum. This is why the first few services are monitored so no abnormal behaviors are established.
- Physical Disorders: A boar can have a fractured penis (due to trauma) or even penile adhesions. During the first few services, these conditions can be recognised and the boar can be removed from the breeding group.