

# Locating the Ovaries

*Document created and shared by VT Fish & Wildlife*

## 1. Open the abdomen

Do not spill the guts. It is much easier to locate the ovaries while the viscera are still in the animal.

## 2. Locate the uterus

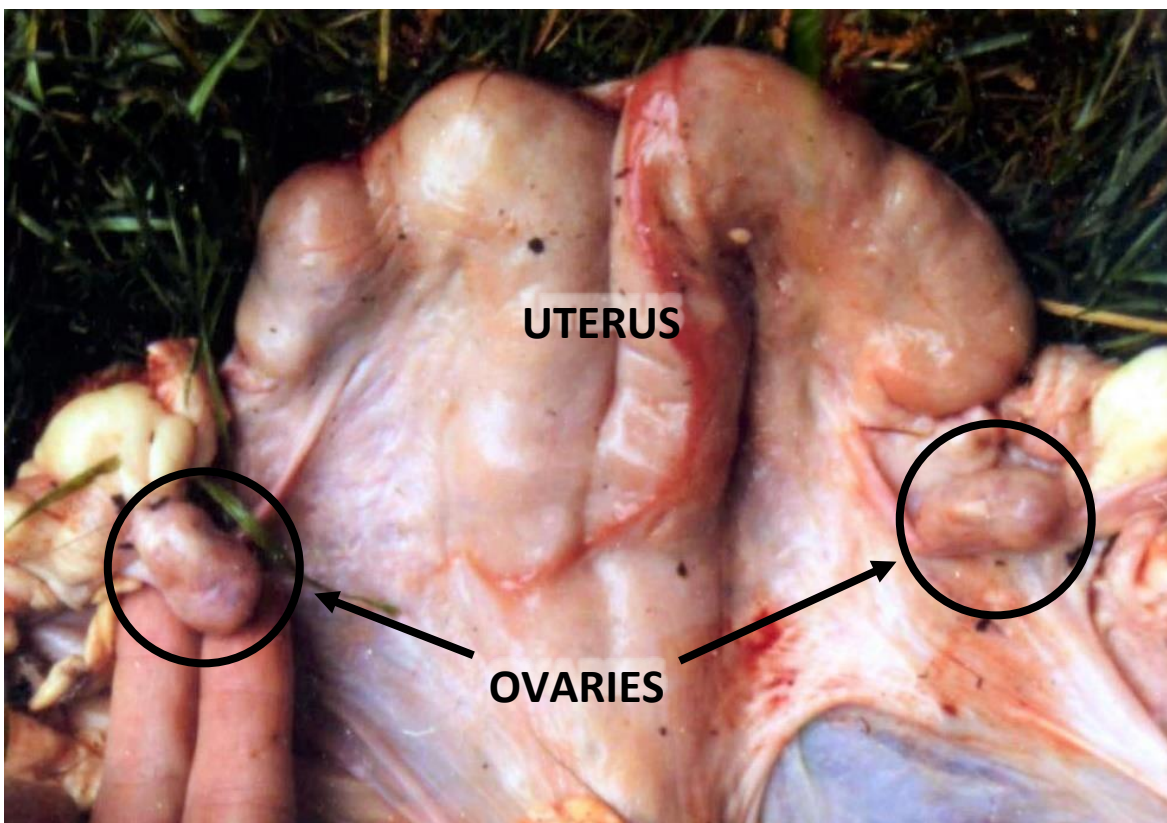
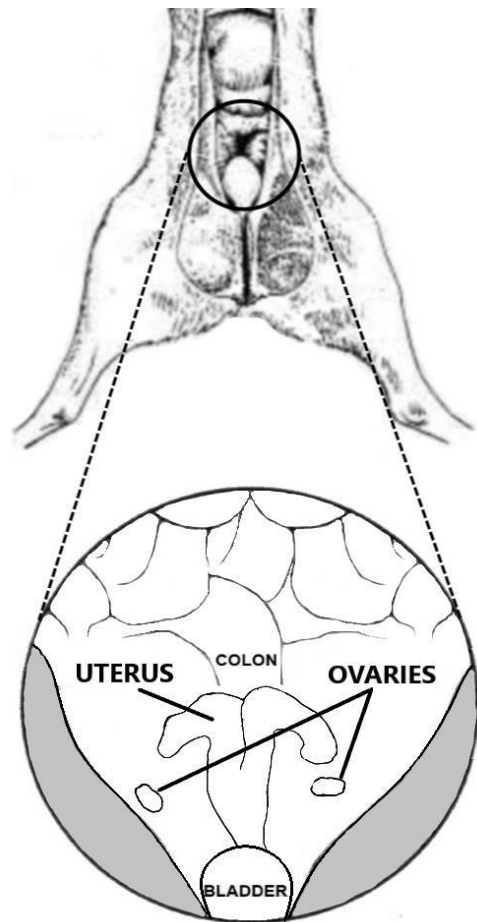
The uterus is located just forward of the pelvis, between the bladder and the colon (large intestine). It can also be located by working forward from the vagina. The uterus has two horns (see photo) and may be 4 to 10 inches long depending on the age and reproductive history of the animal.

## 3. Locate the ovaries

The ovaries are located a couple inches from the end of each horn of the uterus and are connected to the uterus by a thin membrane. Ovaries are bean-shaped and  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. Be careful not to confuse nearby fat globules for the ovaries.

## 4. Remove the uterus and ovaries

It is often best to remove the uterus and ovaries together by cutting the base of the uterus near the pelvis and trimming generously around the uterus, leaving nearby membranes, ovaries, and fat attached. This helps Department biologists at the check station ensure you collected the right parts (and may save you a trip back to the kill site). Only the ovaries are required. If you are confident that you have located both, you may remove only the ovaries by cutting the membranes holding them in place.



See also: [Maine Fish & Wildlife ovary collection video](#)