

These are photos of a necropsy that R. W. did on a doe she had. She used techniques she learned at the necropsy class at Westmorland rabbit school and was able to accurately determine the cause of the disease.

R. W.'s mom wrote:

She had a doe that was due to kindle in January. The doe was treated with Oxytocin and then several courses of antibiotics. She just never got better. We finally had to have her put down. R. did her first necropsy and this is what she found. She thinks she had a severe case of metritis (uterus was filled with a large amount of pus???)

The doe did not kindle. The Oxytocin (also known as pitocin) causes dilation and uterine contractions. This opens up the mucous plug at the end of the uterus. The plug keeps the uterus sealed from the outside world. With the plug gone, bacteria can travel up the vagina into the uterus and cause an infection called metritis.

This is why in humans, once the water breaks, the doctors want the mother in the hospital; both to monitor the progress, but also to control infection to prevent metritis. Metritis killed a quarter of all mothers in the 1800's.

The skin has been opened and pulled back.



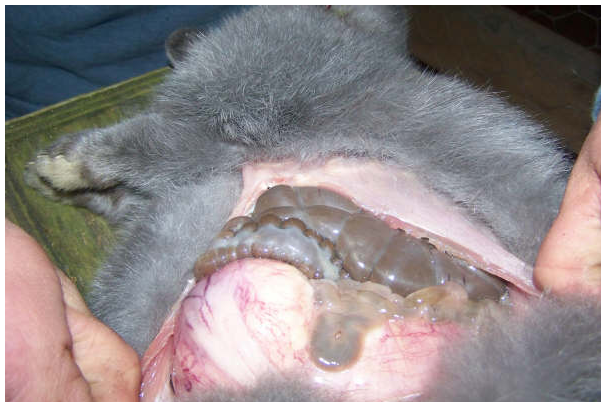
The muscle wall is being opened .



Rabbits have two uterine horns. Normally long, thin and pink. In this case one is in a crescent shape and the other looks a softball, both much larger than they should be. This is because they are filled with pus giving the white appearance. The bright red streaks are blood vessels.



The cecum and colon filled with partially digested feed can be seen as the brown tubes. That is the normal appearance.



The uterus has been punctured and pus is running out. The cecum is to the left.



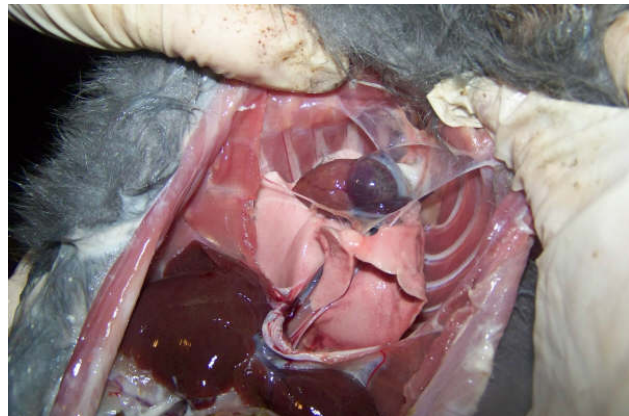
Pus is not the bacteria. Pus is primarily made up of white blood cells, dead cells and some fluid. It is caused by the body trying to fight the infection. It may or may not have any significant amount of bacteria in it. The bacteria mainly grow on the uterus and on the decaying fetuses.



There was a huge amount of pus showing a significant and long term infection. The prognosis for this animal, regardless of the type of treatment, would have been very poor.



This is a view of the chest cavity. The dark red organ at the bottom left is the liver, the whitish organ is the lung and the grape size organ just below the thumbs is the heart. The ribs can be seen on either side.



Note: R. is wearing gloves, never do a necropsy without gloves and be careful to follow infection control techniques taught in the class.