



FYI Reproductive System

- Unlike humans, most male mammals have a penis bone called a **baculum**. Even gorillas and chimpanzees, humans' closest living relatives, have them, although they're very small. In animals, the baculum keeps the penis erect during mating, whereas in humans, blood pressure inside the penis serves this function. In Alaska, the baculums of large mammals like walrus and polar bears are polished and used as knife handles and other tools by native people. This kind of tool is called an **oosik**.
- In the movie, Tim mentions that the testicles of human males are located in a sac called the *scrotum*, on the outsides of their bodies. But some mammals, like elephants, have testicles located deep inside their bodies, near their kidneys! Animals with testicles outside their body are said to have **descended testicles**; while animals with testicles inside their body exhibit **testicondy**.
- The reproductive systems of marsupials, a class of animals that includes kangaroos, opossums, and koalas, are different from mammals'. Most female marsupials have two uteruses (see image), along with a vaginal canal that is divided in half. Because of this most male marsupials have forked penises!
- Sexual reproduction in birds is very different than sexual reproduction in mammals. Both male and female birds have openings called **cloacas** through which eggs, sperm, and body wastes pass. To mate, most male and female birds press their cloacas together, and sperm is transferred from the male into the female.

