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es·trus also **oes·trus**  (ěs trəs)

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n.

The periodic state of sexual excitement in the female of most mammals, excluding humans, that immediately precedes ovulation and during which the female is most receptive to mating; heat.

[New Latin, from Latin *oestrus*, frenzy, gadfly, from Greek *oistros*; see **eis-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

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