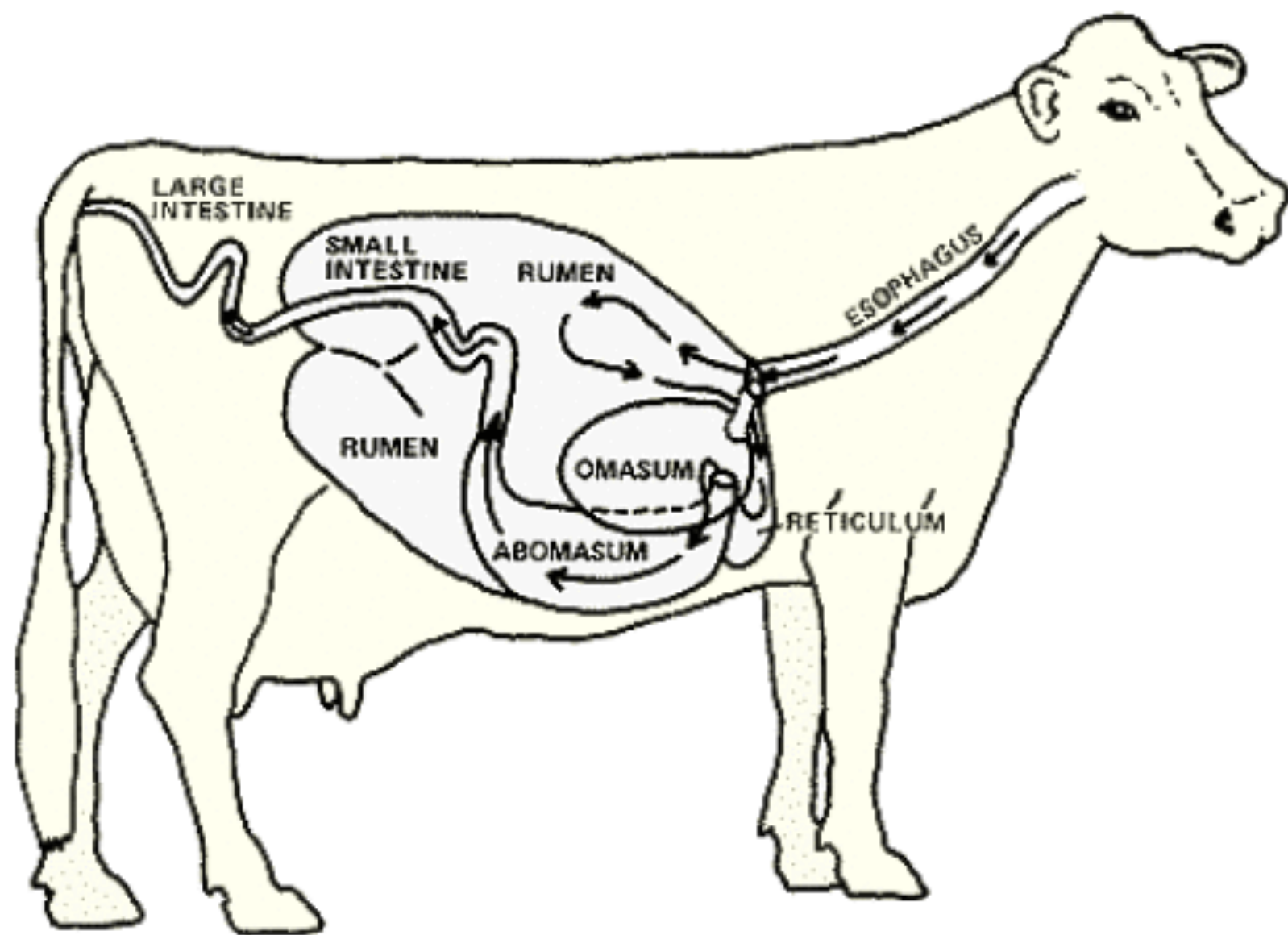


# Examination of the GI Tract

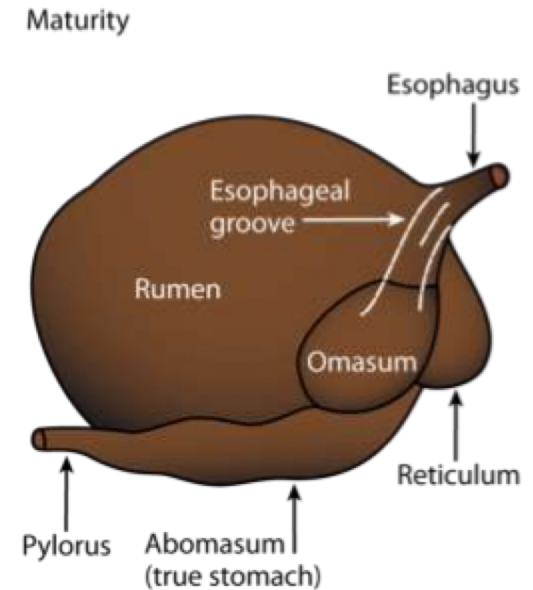
- The digestive tract includes the oral cavity and associated organs (lips, teeth, tongue, and salivary glands), the esophagus, the forestomachs (reticulum, rumen, omasum) of ruminants and the true stomach in all species, the small intestine, the liver, the exocrine pancreas, the large intestine, and the rectum and anus.
- A complete, accurate history and routine clinical examination can often determine the diagnosis. In outbreaks of GI tract disease in farm animals, the history and epidemiologic findings are of prime importance.

- To take thorough history
- Physical examination
- • Laboratory investigations (blood, stool, Helicobacter pylori, etc)
- Ultrasound
- Endoscopy
- X-ray (plain film)
- • CT, MRI, selective enterography, endoscopy



Auscultation of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract should include the rumen, large and small intestines

- The rumen is the only distinct sound that can be heard
  - It will be heard best in the paralumbar fossa
  - A normal contraction will cause the rumen to bulge in the paralumbar fossa
- Small and large bowel will sound similar and can be somewhat discerned by anatomy
  - Both can be heard on the right side
  - The spiral colon and cecum are best heard in the right paralumbar fossa



- Tympanic sounds are heard when percussion and auscultation are done simultaneously
- • Caused by a gas filled viscous

# Examination of rumen fluid

- The sample should be evaluated as soon as possible after collection to minimize the effects of cooling and air exposure on protozoal activity and pH.
- Estimation of biochemical characters as chloride and ammonia concentration can be delayed to 9 hours in room temperature sample and up to 24 hrs on a refrigerated sampl