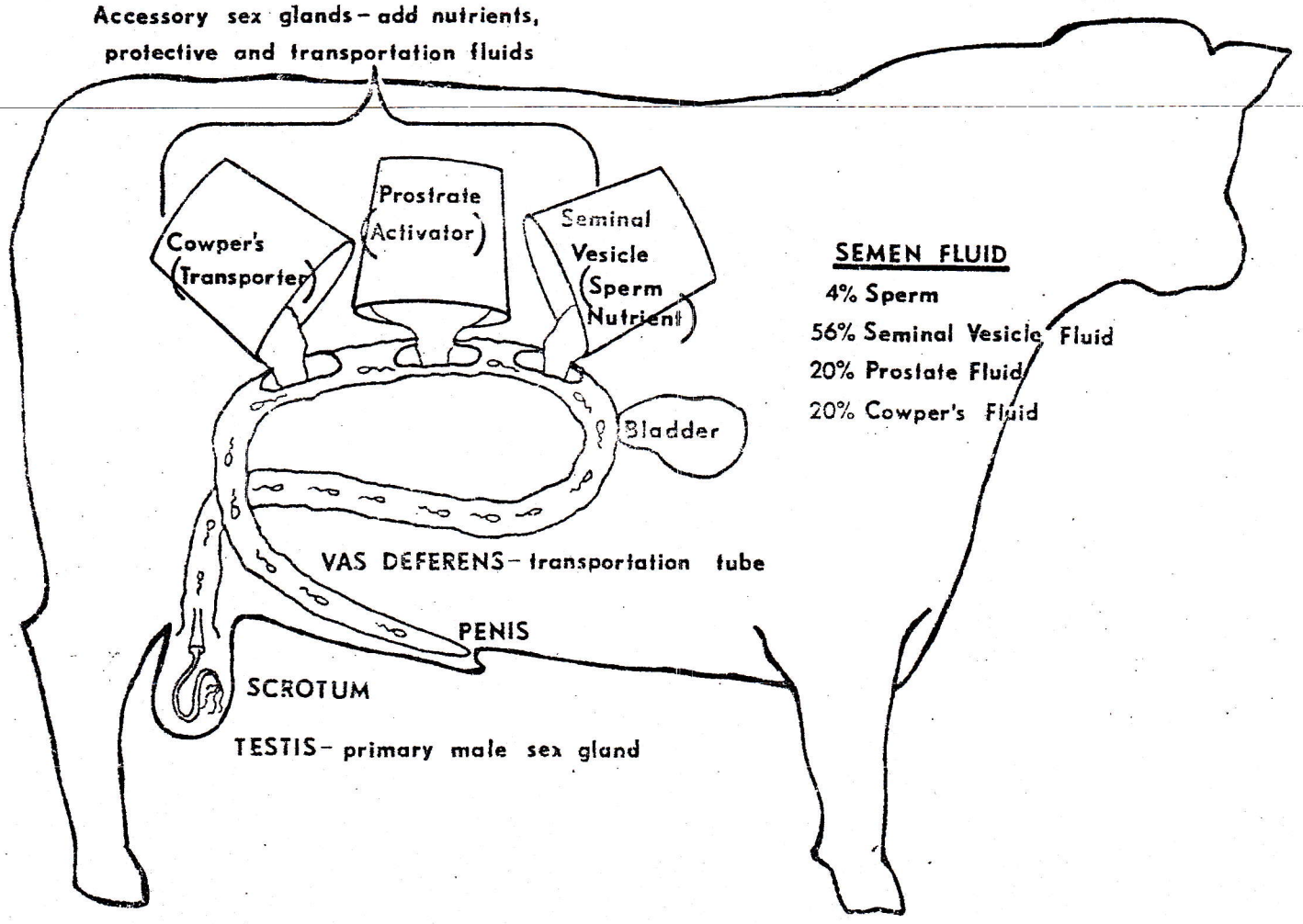
- The one *prostate gland* is believed to add secretions which activate the sperm. Motility is necessary to aid them in meeting and fertilizing the egg. The sperm have very little mobility until these secretions are added.
- The two *cowper's glands* secrete fluids which help in transporting the sperm cells out of the male's body and also help protect them from being killed by other chemicals in the body.

One of the main reasons for the protective fluids is that, after the sperm cells leave the vas deferens, they must use the *urethra* (the same passageway that is used to carry *urine* or wastes from the body's kidneys). The urine contains chemicals that would kill unprotected sperm cells.

SEMEN

The sperm and all of the combination of secretions from the three accessory glands and other parts of the reproductive tract are known as *semen*. The sperm actually make up only from 5 to 20 percent of the total semen.

The semen leaves the male through the penis by a muscular force known as *ejaculation*. During ejaculation in normal mating, the penis serves to deposit the semen in the reproductive system of the female. This act is called *copulation, coitus, service* or *breeding*.



MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

Figure 58