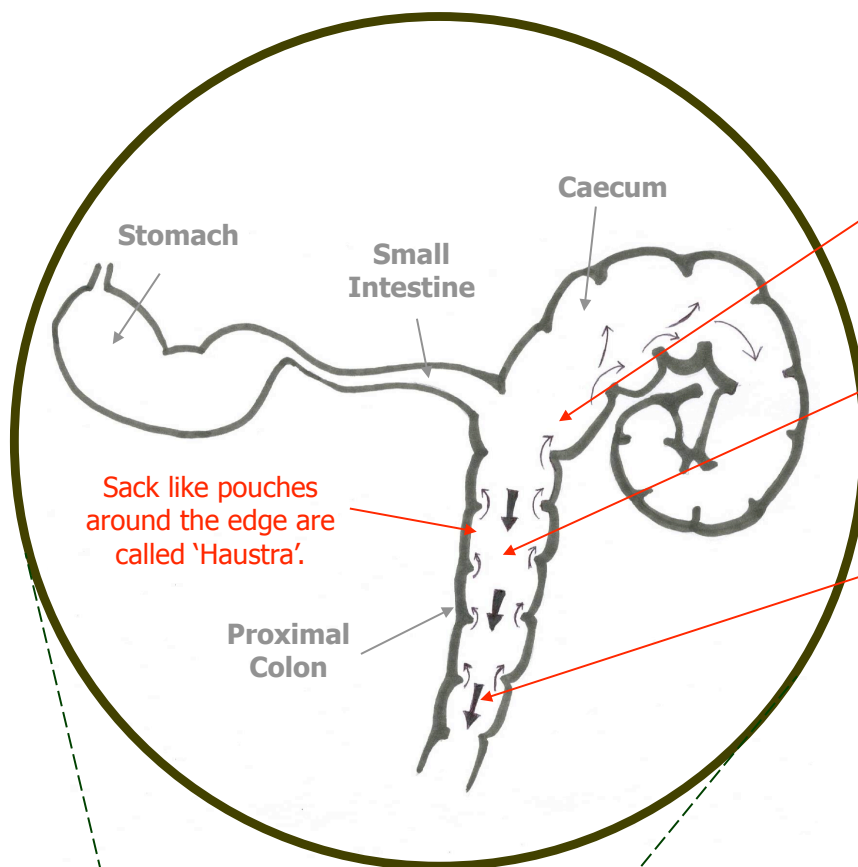


Haustral activity in rabbits

Haustral activity is the process that allows a rabbit's gut to separate off indigestible fibre from digestible fibre.



1. Haustral activity moves digestible fibre upwards towards the Caecum.

2. Meanwhile larger pieces of indigestible fibre gather in the middle and move downwards.

3. Indigestible fibre is then moved down the gut where it is turned into hard faeces with the water and nutrients being absorbed from them.

In some ways the proximal colon could be likened to a beating drum where smaller particles are vibrated to the outside. Smaller 'Haustral' waves that occur every 3 seconds are able to push the smaller particles where as they are not powerful enough to move the larger indigestible ones. Meanwhile, the larger waves that occur every 15 seconds are strong enough to force indigestible material downwards.

