Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Physical Examinations

Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Objectives

- Discuss the importance of the physical examination in diagnosing problems and diseases
- Discuss the importance of an animal’s medical history and records in the diagnosis process
- Discuss observation as a technique for diagnosis
- Discuss the importance of proper restraint of the patient during examination
- Describe the examination process
Physical Examination

- History
- Observation
- Physical evaluation
SJMC
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER
ADMISSION RECORD

New Patient: ____________________________  
Case No.: ____________________________  
Visit No.: ____________________________  
Admitting Clinic: ____________________________  
Admission Date: ____________________________  

OWNER  ___________________________________________________________________________
HOME PHONE ____________________________
ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________
WORK PHONE ____________________________
CITY ____________________________ STATE ____________ ZIP ____________________________

RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT

ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________
CITY ____________________________ STATE ____________ ZIP ____________________________
HAULER/AGENT

ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________
PHONE ____________________________
INSURANCE COMPANY

ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________
PHONE ____________________________
AGENT/REPRESENTATIVE

ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________
PHONE ____________________________

POLICY NUMBER ____________________________ TYPE OF COVERAGE ____________________________ COMPANY NOTIFIED? ____________________________

PATIENT NAME/TAQ/TATTOO ____________________________ D.O.B. ____________________________ GENDER ____________________________

SPECIES/GENRE ____________________________ COLOR ____________________________ # IN HERD/ GROUP ____________________________

REASON FOR VISIT

TYPE OF VISIT ____________________________  
ADMITTING CLINICIAN ____________________________

REFERRING VETERINARIAN

ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________
PHONE ____________________________  
FAX ____________________________

CLINIC ___________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________
CITY ____________________________ STATE ____________ ZIP ____________________________

RELEASE FOR TREATMENT

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the owner (or duly authorized agent of the owner) of this animal; that I hereby authorize the Veterinary Medical Center, their agents, or representatives, to perform the medical or surgical procedures, anesthesia, x-ray examination, drugs or other such treatment which the clinician deems necessary; and I agree to accept responsibility for the full payment of all services rendered. I further agree that if this animal is not picked up within (10) days of receiving written notification of discharge, the hospital is released from liability for disposing of the animal. I hereby state that I have read this release, that I understand the agreement, and that I have received a copy of this agreement.

SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE ____________________________

FORM NO. J07P-PH

MEDICAL RECORD

ADMISSION RECORD
Medical History

- Includes
  - Owner name
  - Address
  - Phone number
  - Current problems
    - Chief complaint
    - Duration
    - Progression
  - Vaccination history
  - Deworming history
  - Past traumatic incidents/illness
  - Past surgeries
  - Any medications
    - Heartworm medication
  - Housing arrangements
  - Urine output
Observation

- Prior to exam
- Observe
  - Attitude/mental state
  - Character
  - Appearance
  - Lameness
  - Restraint requirements
  - Respiratory rate
  - Heart rate
  - Body temperature
  - Weight
Restraint

- Assistant performs
- Minimum restraint

Small animals
- Calm
  - Hold head and neck
- Anxious
  - Sedation
Large animals
- Head gate
- Squeeze chute
- Stock
- Halter
- Rope
Physical Evaluation

- Body systems
  - Muscular
  - Skeletal
  - Endocrine
  - Nervous
  - Integumentary
  - Cardiovascular (circulatory)
  - Lymphatic (immune)
  - Digestive
  - Respiratory
  - Urinary
  - Reproductive
Integumentary system

Abnormalities

- Dry scaly skin
- Scabs
- Lesions
- Parasites
- Ears
  - Otoscope
    - Wax
    - Mites
    - Ticks
    - Foreign objects
- Eyes
  - Ophthalmoscope
    - Iris
    - Lens
    - Optic disc
- Nose
- Oral cavity
  - Teeth
  - Gums
    - Color
    - Presence of lesions
    - Gingivitis
- Head
  - Bumps
  - Swellings
  - Lesions
  - Other abnormalities
- Cardiovascular system
  - Heart rate
    - Stethoscope
  - Heart health
    - Murmur
  - Abdominal fluid accumulation
  - Skin edema

- Respiratory system
  - Respiratory rate
    - Stethoscope
  - Lung health
    - Fluid or inflammation
- Digestive system
  - Intestinal motility
    - Stethoscope
      - Gut sounds
  - Masses
    - Palpate abdomen
  - Feces
    - Consistency
Musculoskeletal and Nervous Systems

Observation
- Lameness
- Abnormal posture
- Incoordination
- Mental state

Palpate
- Muscles
- Bones
- Joints
Reproductive System
- Observation and palpation
  - External and internal genitalia
    - Vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus
    - Prepuce, penis, testicles, accessory glands

Urinary System
- From history
  - Frequency of urination
Physical Exams of Large Animals

- Musculoskeletal and Nervous Systems
  - Observation
    - Lameness
    - Abnormal posture
    - Incoordination
    - Mental state
Integumentary system

Abnormalities

- Dry scaly skin
- Scabs
- Lesions
- Parasites
- **Ears**
  - Otoscope
    - Wax
    - Ticks
    - Foreign objects
- **Eyes**
  - Ophthalmoscope
    - Iris
    - Lens
    - Optic disc
- **Nose**
- Oral cavity
  - Teeth
  - Gums
    - Color
    - Presence of lesions

- Head
  - Bumps
  - Swellings
  - Lesions
  - Other abnormalities
Cardiovascular system
- Pulse
  - Stethoscope
- Heart health
  - Murmur
- Fluid accumulation and edema

Respiratory system
- Respiratory rate
  - Stethoscope
- Lung health
  - Fluid or inflammation
Digestive system

- Intestinal motility
  - Stethoscope
    - Gut sounds

- Masses
  - Palpate abdomen

- Feces
  - Consistency
Reproductive System
  ■ Observation and palpation
    ■ External and internal genitalia
      ▪ Vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus
      ▪ Prepuce, penis, testicles, accessory gland

Urinary System
  ■ From history
    ■ Frequency
Overview

- Keys of physical examination
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment
  - Preventive medicine
    - Health check-ups