

Veterinary Science

Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant

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FAZD CENTER

NATIONAL CENTER FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL
AND ZOONOTIC DISEASE DEFENSE

fazd.tamu.edu



Physical Examinations

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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 _____ PHONE _____

INSURANCE COMPANY _____ PHONE _____

AGENT/REPRESENTATIVE _____ PHONE _____

POLICY NUMBER _____ TYPE OF COVERAGE _____ COMPANY NOTIFIED? _____

PATIENT NAME/TAG/TATTOO _____ D.O.B. _____ GENDER _____

SPECIES/BREED _____ COLOR _____ # IN HERD/
GROUP _____

REASON FOR VISIT _____

TYPE OF VISIT _____ ADMITTING CLINICIAN _____

REFERRING VETERINARIAN _____ 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 _____

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



Physical Exams of Small Animals

- 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



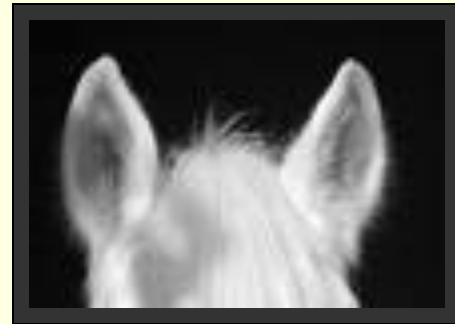
■ Integumentary system

■ Abnormalities

- Dry scaly skin
- Scabs
- Lesions
- Parasites



- Ears
 - Otoscope
 - Wax
 - Ticks
 - Foreign objects
- Eyes
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 - 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
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■ Reproductive System

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■ External and internal genitalia

- Vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus
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■ From history

- Frequency



Overview

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

