Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Vital Signs

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Objectives

- Describe two methods for measuring body temperature
- Discuss the importance of determining an animal’s body temperature
- Describe the methods for measuring pulse rates in animals
- Discuss the importance of determining an animal’s pulse rate
- Describe how to determine an animal’s respiration rate
- Discuss the importance of respiration rates
Vital Signs

- Body temperature
- Pulse rate
- Respiration rate
Body Temperature

- Elevated due to pain, illness, hot weather.
- Lowered due to shock, anemia, cold weather.

Measurement by rectal thermometers
- Mercury
- Digital
Pulse Rate

- Elevated due to stress, excitement, exercise, pain, illness, hot weather, cardiovascular disorder.
- Lowered due to shock, anemia, cold weather, cardiovascular disorder.

- Measurement by stethoscope
- Measurement by palpating artery
Respiratory Rate

- Elevated due to stress, excitement, exercise, pain, illness, hot weather, respiratory disorder.
- Lowered due to shock, anemia, cold weather, respiratory disorder.

- Measurement by stethoscope
- Measurement by nostril flare, flank draw, chest expansion
## Vital Signs By Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Body Temp</th>
<th>Pulse Rate</th>
<th>Resp. Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>102.5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>102.5</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>