

Physical Examination Techniques in

Physical Examination Techniques in Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Medicine

1. General Observations:

- Begin by observing the animal's behavior, posture, and demeanor.
- Note any signs of distress, pain, or abnormal behavior.

2. Vital Signs:

- Measure temperature, pulse rate, respiratory rate, and mucous membrane color.
- Normal ranges:
 - Temperature: 100.5-102.5°F
 - Pulse rate: 60-160 beats per minute
 - Respiratory rate: 10-30 breaths per minute

3. Body Condition Score (BCS):

- Assess the animal's body condition using a scoring system to evaluate weight and muscle mass.

4. Skin and Coat:

- Inspect for signs of parasites, wounds, lumps, and hair loss.
- Check for signs of inflammation, redness, or abnormal growths.

5. Eyes:

- Examine the eyes for clarity, discharge, redness, and signs of injury.
- Assess pupillary response and ocular health.

6. Ears:

- Check for signs of infection, inflammation, discharge, or excessive wax buildup.
- Evaluate the animal's response to ear manipulation.

7. Nose and Mouth:

- Inspect for nasal discharge, congestion, or abnormalities in the oral cavity.
- Check teeth for tartar buildup, fractures, or signs of dental disease.

Physical Examination Techniques in

8. Heart and Lungs:

Veterinary Medicine

- Auscultate the heart for rate, rhythm, and murmurs.
- Listen to lung sounds for any abnormalities such as crackles or wheezes.

9. Abdomen:

- Palpate the abdomen for pain, masses, or organ enlargement.
- Check for abdominal distension, tenderness, or abnormal fluid accumulation.

10. Musculoskeletal System:

- Assess gait, range of motion, and muscle tone.
- Palpate joints for pain, swelling, or signs of arthritis.

11. Neurological Examination:

- Evaluate reflexes, coordination, and response to stimuli.
- Check for signs of weakness, tremors, or abnormal gait.

12. Rectal Examination:

- Optional for specific cases to assess the rectum, prostate, or reproductive organs.
- Requires specialized training and equipment.

Remember to document findings accurately, communicate effectively with pet owners, and follow up on any abnormalities with further diagnostic testing or treatment. Regular physical examinations are essential for maintaining the health and well-being of animals.