



Shelter Medicine
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

July 2015

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Importance of a Physical Examination for Incoming Shelter Animals

Kathleen Makolinski, DVM
Clinical Instructor in Shelter Medicine



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*You'll miss far more by not looking
than by not knowing...*



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Let's Hear from You...



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Examine Shelter Animals at Time of **Intake**

Why is this valuable and necessary?



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Examine Shelter Animals at Time of **Intake**

- Review of animal's history (if known)
 - Any medical/behavior concerns?
 - On any medication?
 - If stray, is finder interested in adopting?
 - Reason for surrender?



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- Does animal need to have anything scheduled?
(examples: spay/neuter, behavior assessment, grooming)



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(examples: spay/neuter, behavior assessment, grooming)
- Save time and \$\$\$



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Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians • 2010

Each animal's health status should be evaluated and monitored beginning at intake and regularly thereafter. This allows any problems or changes that develop during an animal's shelter stay to be recognized, distinguished from pre-existing conditions, and addressed.



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Each animal should receive a health evaluation at intake to check for signs of infectious disease and/or problems that require immediate attention. Intake evaluations should be documented in the medical record.



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Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

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Each animal should receive a health evaluation at intake to check for signs of infectious disease and/or problems that require immediate attention. Intake evaluations should be documented in the medical record.

Starting at time of intake and continuing throughout their stay, healthy animals should not be housed or handled with animals who have signs of illness.

<http://www.sheltervet.org/shelter-standards-task-force>



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Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians • 2010

History should be used to alert staff to the presence of potential problems, such as aggression or anxiety, and to inform staff of any individual needs, so that proper care can be provided for that animal.



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Examine Shelter Animals at Time of **Intake**

- Also gives opportunity to administer:
 - Vaccinations
 - Deworming
 - Flea/tick control
- Perform diagnostic testing according to shelter's protocols
- Take picture of animal
- Place identifying collar on animal



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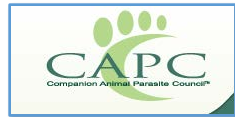
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**2013 AAFP Feline Vaccination
Advisory Panel Report**

**2011 AAHA
Canine Vaccination Guidelines*†**



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Examine Shelter Animals at Time of **Intake**

*Put animal on pathway to receive optimal care while in shelter,
decrease time spent in shelter,
and maximize chance for live release,*



*I would like
to go home
as soon as
possible*



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Examine Shelter Animals at Time of **Intake**

Check your state's Veterinary Practice Act
to determine who is allowed to perform intake evaluations

In general, only licensed veterinarians are allowed to
diagnose animal conditions and devise treatment plans



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Examine Shelter Animals at Time of **Intake**

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to determine who is allowed to perform intake evaluations

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diagnose animal conditions and devise treatment plans

*The goal of an intake evaluation is NOT diagnosis of disease.
The goal is simple recognition of
conditions that should be further assessed.*



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A Good Experience for Everyone

- Appropriate and humane animal handling



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A Good Experience for Everyone

- Appropriate and humane animal handling
- Safe and controlled environment



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A Good Experience for Everyone

- Appropriate and humane animal handling
- Safe and controlled environment
- Minimize time working with animal
 - Have everything in place



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A Good Experience for Everyone

- Appropriate and humane animal handling
- Safe and controlled environment
- Minimize time working with animal
 - Have everything in place
- Minimize external stimuli
 - Lights low/quiet room
 - Decrease olfactory/visual clues



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A Good Experience for Everyone

- Appropriate and humane animal handling
- Safe and controlled environment
- Minimize time working with animal
 - Have everything in place
- Minimize external stimuli
 - Lights low/quiet room
 - Decrease olfactory/visual clues
- Under direct supervision of veterinarian, appropriate use of drugs when needed



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A Good Experience for Everyone

Webinars

Feline Communication

When a cat rolls on her side, is she requesting a belly rub or is she preparing to defend herself? Learn what cats are saying with their eyes, ears and whiskers, their weight shifts, and body postures. Discover how you can use your own body language to show cats that you are not a threat.

Canine Body Language

Breaking body language down one body part at a time can be helpful in building your observation and interpretation skills. It is vitally important to consider the whole body and the context though, in order to truly "hear" what a dog is saying. Then you can watch the dogs in your life and start to learn what they're telling you.

www.ascpapro.org



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A Good Experience for Everyone

Webinars

Humane Feline Handling 101

How can feline caregivers avoid bites and scratches with minimal stress to both the cat and human? This introductory webinar on humane feline handling will show you:

- The proper way to pick up cats and place them in crates or transfer cages
- Tools to use with more defensive or fearful cats (and what tools should never be used)

Defensive Dog Handling

Animal welfare professionals who handle dogs safely and effectively reduce aggression and fear, ensuring that fewer bites occur. Learn how to use your own body language to defuse potential aggression in dogs. Attendees will learn how to effectively use common types of dog handling equipment found in a shelter setting.

www.ascpapro.org



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A Good Experience for Everyone

What professionals need to know about Low Stress Handling.

Based in behavioral science, Dr. Sophia Yin's Low Stress Handling techniques are used worldwide by professionals concerned with the well-being of animals and the safety of the people who care for them.



Correct Cat Towel Restraint
Restraining An Aggressive Cat

WATCH VIDEO

<http://drsophiayin.com/lowstress>



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Animal Evaluation

- Best for staff to be trained by veterinarian
- Develop a systematic approach for checking whole animal and follow same order each time
- Best to work in a team
- Don't spread disease!
- If determined to be unsafe to perform any/all parts of exam, get help or give animal 'cool down' period
- see if can work with animal later



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Animal Evaluation

Signalment

- Name
- Species
- Breed/mix
- Color
- Age
- Sexual status
(female or male, spayed or neutered)



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Age

www.animalsheltering.org

ESTIMATED AGE	CAT'S TEETH	DOG'S TEETH
2-4 weeks	Deciduous (baby) incisors coming in	No noticeable tooth growth
3-4 weeks	Deciduous (baby) canines coming in	Deciduous (baby) canines coming in
4-6 weeks	Deciduous (baby) premolars coming in on lower jaw	Deciduous (baby) incisors and premolars coming in
8 weeks	All deciduous (baby) teeth are in	All deciduous (baby) teeth are in
3½ - 4 months	Permanent incisors coming in	No noticeable permanent tooth growth
4-5 months	Permanent canines, premolars, and molars coming in	Permanent incisors coming in; some growth of premolars and molars
5-7 months	All permanent teeth in by 6 months	Permanent canines, premolars, and molars coming in; all teeth in by 7 months
1 year	Teeth white and clean	Teeth white and clean
1-2 years	Teeth may appear dull with some tartar build-up (yellowing) on back teeth	Teeth may appear dull with some tartar build-up (yellowing) on back teeth
3-5 years	Teeth show more tartar build-up (on all teeth) and some tooth wear	Teeth show more tartar build-up (on all teeth) and some tooth wear
5-10 years	Teeth show increased wear and disease; pigment visible on gums	Teeth show increased wear and disease
10-15 years	Teeth are worn and show heavy tartar build-up; some teeth may be missing	Teeth are worn and show heavy tartar build-up; some teeth may be missing




©1996 The Humane Society of the United States


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Aging Kittens


A kitten's permanent incisors (the 12 teeth in the front of the mouth – 6 on top, 6 on bottom) usually come in at a predictable rate. The following pictures can be used as a guideline for determining the age of kittens between 12 and 24 weeks of age.





Healthy kittens weigh about 1 pound for every month of age. So, a 2 pound kitten is about 2 months old!

Developmental Milestones



- 2 weeks
 - > Eyes open
 - > Baby teeth erupt
- 3 weeks
 - > Crawling
- 4 weeks
 - > Walking
 - > Playing



Brian A. DiGangi, DVM, MS, DABVP
Created 9/23/11

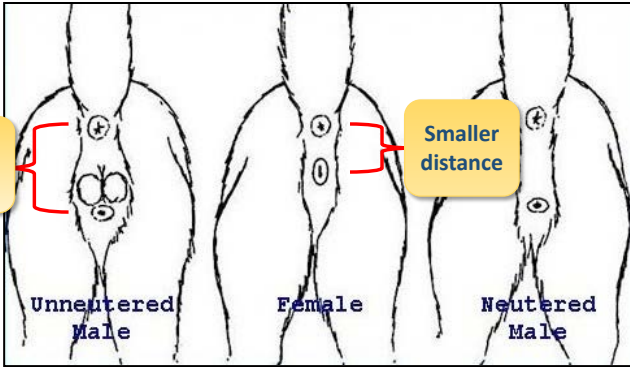
<http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu>

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Sexual Status

In cats ... This can be tricky!



Larger distance

Unneutered Male

Female

Smaller distance

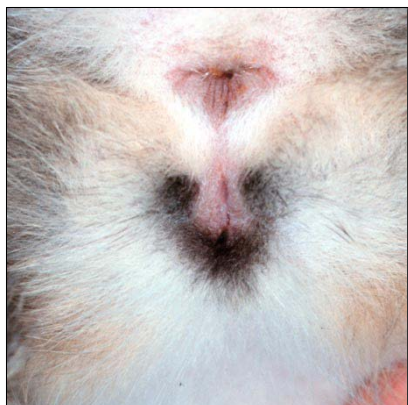
Neutered Male

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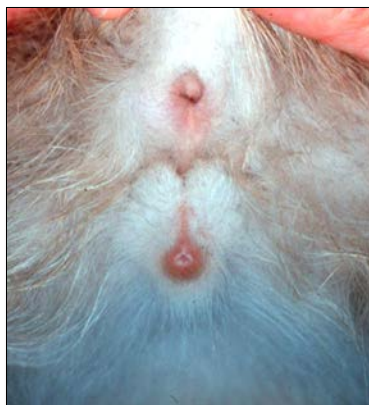
Sexual Status

In kittens ... This can be even trickier!



Female kitten

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Male kitten

Pictures courtesy of Dr. Tami McReynolds

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Sexual Status



**The Association of Shelter Veterinarians
veterinary medical care guidelines
for spay-neuter programs**

JAVMA, Vol 233, No. 1, July 1, 2008

Each spay/neuter program should choose a consistent means of identifying animals that have been neutered. Tattooing the ventral abdominal skin is recommended for females. Sterile instrumentation should be used to apply the tattoo regardless of the method chosen.

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Sexual Status



The Association of Shelter Veterinarians veterinary medical care guidelines for spay-neuter programs

JAVMA, Vol 233, No. 1, July 1, 2008

For free-roaming cats, unilateral ear tipping is the recommended method for identifying cats that have been neutered. Removal of an ear tip represents the universally accepted international standard for identifying a neutered free-roaming cat.

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Sexual Status



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Do All Reproductive Parts Look Normal?

Testicles

- Both descended into scrotum?
- Tumors?

Vulva

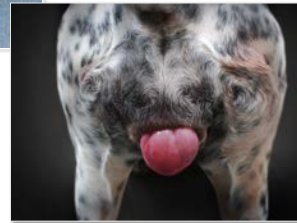
- Discharge?
- Prolapsed vagina/uterus?
- Tumors?

Penis/Prepuce

- Discharge?
- Swelling?

Mammary glands

- Swelling?
- Heat?
- Tumors?
- Lactating?
- Abnormal discharge?



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Sexual Status – CASE STUDY

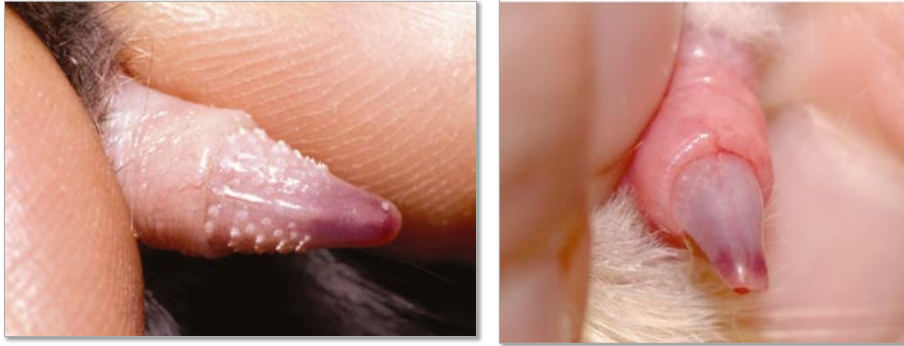
You are a veterinary technician who is performing intake exams at an animal shelter. Presented with a 2 year male cat with no palpable testicles.

*Is he already neutered
or is he cryptorchid?*

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Sexual Status – CASE STUDY



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Penis of Male Cat

- Spines occur because of male sex hormones
- They are present by 12 weeks and prominent by 6 months
- Spines regress within about 6 weeks if neutered after puberty
- Very rarely, a cat could be a bilateral cryptorchid, spines would differentiate this situation from a neutered cat
- A cat may be a unilateral cryptorchid and may have only had the scrotal testicle removed, spines would indicate the presence of a testicle in the abdomen or inguinal canal



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Animal Evaluation

Check for identification

- Tags
- Writing on collar
- Tattoos (ear, abdomen, thigh)



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Animal Evaluation

Check for identification

- Scanning for microchip
 - Slowly, in a methodical fashion
 - Using a scanner that detects ALL chips
 - Fresh batteries!



Diagram A

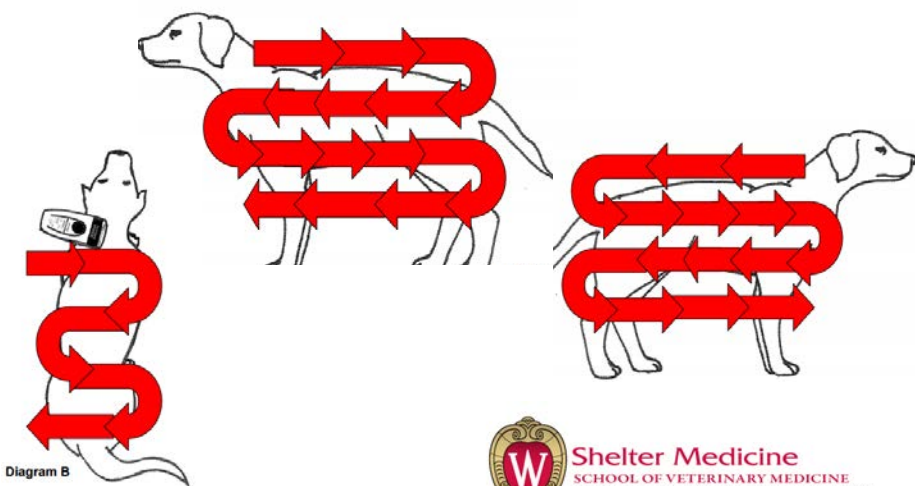
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Animal Evaluation

Check for identification



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Animal Evaluation


Check for identification



AAHA Microchipping and Scanning Companion Animals Module

**Microchipping & Scanning
Companion Animals**

This **free, one-hour, online course** is designed for staff at companion animal veterinary clinics and animal shelter organizations in the United States.



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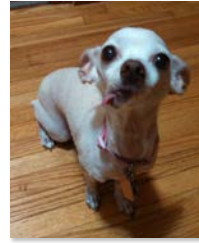
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Animal Evaluation

Check for identification

AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup



The Microchip is enrolled with:

**Found
Animals
REGISTRY.**

Date Last Updated: 11/10/2013
For more information please call: 855-PET-CHIP (855-738-2447)
Or visit: <http://www.found.org>

24PetWatch
PET PROTECTION. ANYWHERE. ANY TIME.

Date Last Updated: 10/17/2013
For more information please call: 866-597-2424
Or visit: <http://www.24PetWatch.com/>



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Animal Evaluation

Weight

TPR

- Temperature
- Pulse (beats/minute)
- Respiratory rate (breaths/minute)

Recent history

- Cough
- Sneeze
- Vomit
- Diarrhea



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Cat and Dog normals

Temperature

- Normal for dogs and cats: 100 – 102.8
- Lower in neonates:
 - Week 1: 95-99
 - Week 2 – 3: 97-100
 - Weaning: 99-101
- Greater than 106.5 = emergency

Pulse:

- Rate: Count for 6 seconds and multiply by ten
- Normal for dogs varies:
 - Large dogs: 60-100
 - Medium dogs: 80-120
 - Small dogs: 90-140
- Cats: 140-250
- Neonates: 200-250

Respiratory rate:

- Count respiratory rate while animal is at rest
- Inspiration and expiration counts as one breath
- Normal rate in dogs: 15-30 breaths/minute
- Normal rate in cats: 20-30 breaths/ minute

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From a Distance ...

- Attitude and stress level
- Evidence of neurologic or musculoskeletal disease
- Initial assessment of behavior (not to replace formal behavior evaluation)
- General body condition



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Nestlé PURINA BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN	1	Ribs visible on shorthaired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia easily palpated.	
	2	Ribs easily visible on shorthaired cats; lumbar vertebrae obvious with minimal muscle mass; pronounced abdominal tuck; no palpable fat.	
	3	Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat.	
	4	Ribs palpable with minimal fat covering; noticeable waist behind ribs; slight abdominal tuck; abdominal fat pad absent.	
IDEAL	5	Well-proportioned; observe waist behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal.	
	6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering; waist and abdominal fat pad distinguishable but not obvious; abdominal tuck absent.	
TOO HEAVY	7	Ribs not easily palpated with moderate fat covering; waist poorly discernible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate abdominal fat pad.	
	8	Ribs not palpable with excess fat covering; waist absent; obvious rounding of abdomen with prominent abdominal fat pad; fat deposits present over lumbar area.	
	9	Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distention of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat deposits.	

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8287), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., CT

Nestlé PURINA BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN	1	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.	
	2	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.	
	3	Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.	
IDEAL	4	Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.	
	5	Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.	
TOO HEAVY	6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.	
	7	Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.	
	8	Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.	
	9	Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.	

The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Health Policy Pet Care Center and has been validated in accordance with the following publications:
 Hendrick, Jorgensen, Fox, Johnson, et al., Comparison of body fat palpation by dog owners to a new ultrasonography and densitometry scale (Abstracts in short animal drugs, Companion Animals, 127 (Feb. 19) February 2012) and Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs, Current Practice (doi:10.1016/j.cpr.2012.02.001)
 Nisbet, et al., Effect of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age Related Changes in Dogs, JAVMA 2002; 282(10):1268-1274
 Call 1-800-222-VETS (8287), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., CT

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From the tip of the nose to the end of the tail...

With extra emphasis on those areas that are determined to be of importance from history or initial observations



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Head & Neck

Face

- Any signs of fear? Aggression?
- Asymmetry?



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Head & Neck

Eyes & Eyelids

- Abnormality in size/position of eyeballs?
- Discharge?
- Anisocoria?
- Tumor?



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Head & Neck

Nose & Nares

- Discharge (color)?
- Airflow?
- Swelling?



Ears

- Carriage and position
- Discharge?
- Odor?
- Red?
- Swelling?
- Shaking head?
- Scratching?
- Evidence of ear mites?



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Head & Neck

Lips & Mouth

- Mucous membrane color
- Capillary refill time
- Severe halitosis?
- Periodontal disease?
- Tartar?
- Tumor?
- Broken/missing/worn teeth?



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Head & Neck

Salivary glands swollen?

Peripheral lymph nodes swollen?

- Submandibular
- Prescapular

Thyroid gland in cats enlarged?

Trachea

- Cough elicited upon palpation?

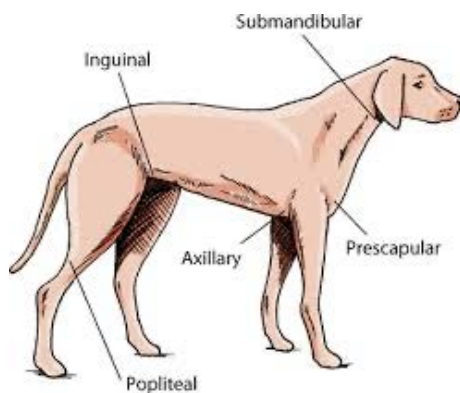


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Listening to Heart and Lungs (Thoracic Auscultation)

Heart

- Feel femoral pulses simultaneously
- Murmurs (abnormal sounds) or arrhythmias (abnormal rhythm)?

Canine Cardiology: A multimedia guide to cardiac auscultation

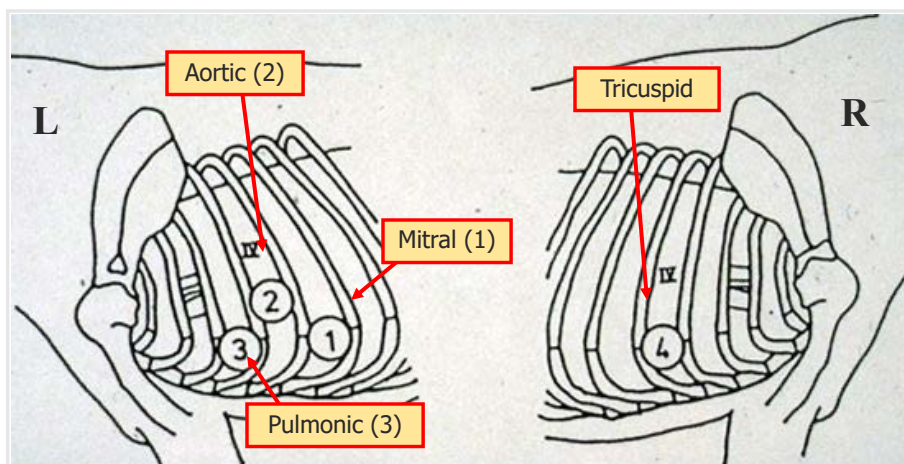
www.vetvisions.com



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Valves – Point of Maximum Intensities (PMIs) (Dog)



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Listening to Heart and Lungs (Thoracic Auscultation)

Lungs

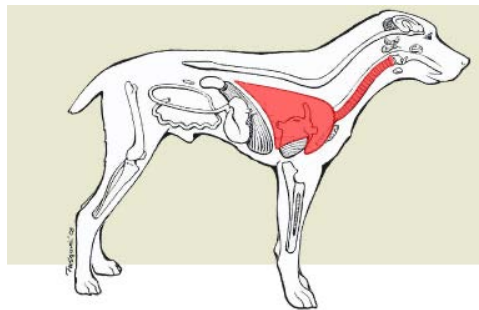
- Different than usual?
- Are sounds decreased or absent? Increased or abnormal?
- Is there increased respiratory effort?



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Listening to Lungs



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Abdomen

Palpate for hernias

- Umbilical?
- Inguinal?

Tumors?

Pregnant?

Gently palpate abdomen

- Obvious masses?
- Pain?



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Hind End

Anus

- Evidence of diarrhea?
- Discharge from anal sacs?
- Tumors?
- Prolapsed rectum?



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Musculoskeletal

Gait abnormalities?
Lameness?
Palpate vertebral column and limbs

- Pain?
- Swelling?
- Fractures?
- Muscle atrophy?
- Decreased range of motion?



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Skin

Dehydrated?
Hair loss?
External parasites?
Tumors?
Abscess?
Scabs/other lesions?
Lacerations?
Overgrown or embedded nails?



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record
- Speed reclaim of animal



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record
- Speed reclaim of animal
- Schedule necessary services



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record
- Speed reclaim of animal
- Schedule necessary services
- Develop list of animals who need exam, diagnosis, treatment by vet



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record
- Speed reclaim of animal
- Schedule necessary services
- Develop list of animals who need exam, diagnosis, treatment by vet
- Monitor animal for changes over course of shelter stay



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record
- Speed reclaim of animal
- Schedule necessary services
- Develop list of animals who need exam, diagnosis, treatment by vet
- Monitor animal for changes over course of shelter stay
- Communicate conditions to potential adopters



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record
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- Communicate conditions to potential adopters
- Obtain immediate veterinary care when needed



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What to do with Exam Findings?

- Enter in animal's record
- Speed reclaim of animal
- Schedule necessary services
- Develop list of animals who need exam, diagnosis, treatment by vet
- Monitor animal for changes over course of shelter stay
- Communicate conditions to potential adopters
- Obtain immediate veterinary care when needed
- Place animal in appropriate location within shelter



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Emergencies!

Fever > 105 F or temperature < 99 F
 Severe dehydration
 Trouble breathing/open mouth breathing in cats
 Seizures
 Blue/very pale/brick red gums
 Emaciation
 Recent history of being hit by car
 Acute severe lameness or injury with bone exposed
 Major wound or fresh wound requiring sutures
 Injury to eye
 Bleeding or easy/extensive bruising
 Suddenly swollen abdomen
 Cat with possible urinary blockage (unable to urinate)
 Pregnant animal in distress
 Evidence of pain – restlessness, vocalizing, panting, failure to bear
 Weight on limb or any condition that would be expected to be painful

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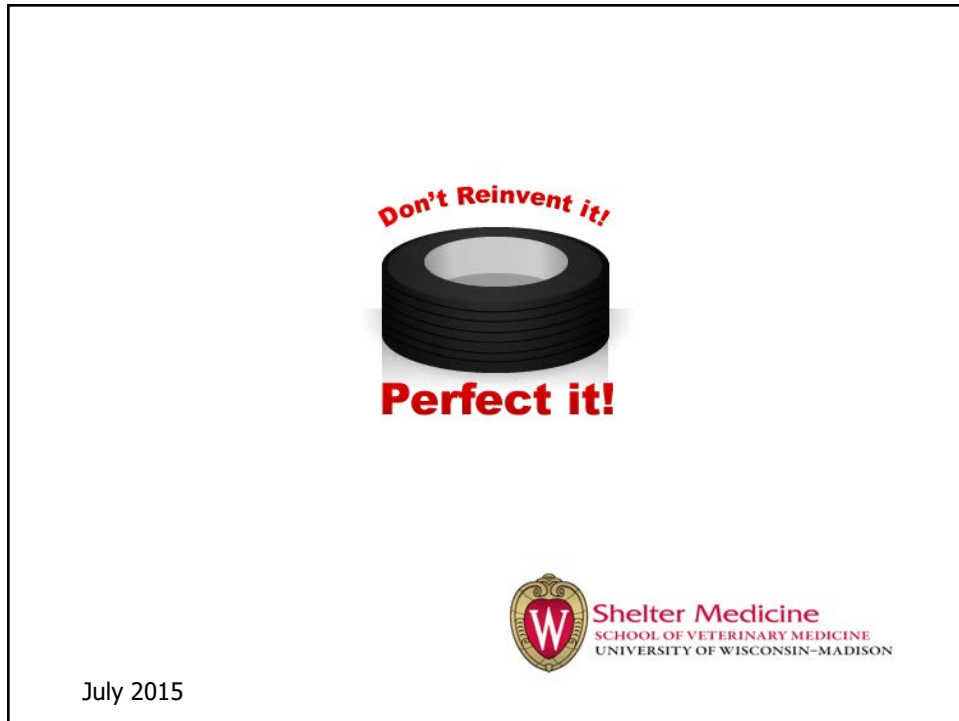
Infectious Disease Red Flags!

Isolate from other animals,
 use personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling

Bloody or severe diarrhea
 Vomit or diarrhea with other signs of disease
 Neurological signs
 Oral ulcers with fever or swelling
 Discharge from eyes/nose
 Circular patches of hair loss
 Dead in cage – check for parvovirus/panleukopenia

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HEALTH CHECK FORM EVALUATOR: _____

Date: _____ Animal ID #: _____ Kennel: _____

Description (species, breed, color, sex, age, double check ID): _____

1. **Overall appearance:** Bright, alert, responsive ☐ Other: _____

2. **Initial behavior assessment:** Social, friendly ☐ Other: _____

3. **Hydration:** No sign of dehydration: ☐ Other: _____

4. **Musculoskeletal:** Lameness or asymmetry? No ☐ Yes/other: _____
Worn toenails, declawed, extra toes? No ☐ Yes/other: _____

5. **Skin:** Fleas/ticks? No ☐ Yes: _____
Hair loss/itching? No ☐ Yes: _____
Masses or sores? No ☐ Yes: _____

6. **Body Condition Score:** _____/9

7. **Heart and lungs:** Heart murmur heard? No ☐ Yes: _____
Lungs clear? Yes ☐ No: _____

8. **Ears:** Clean and free of inflammation or discharge: ☐ Other: _____

9. **Eyes:** Clear, no discharge, white sclera: ☐ Other: _____

10. **Nose:** Clear, no discharge: ☐ Other: _____

11. **Mouth:** Clean teeth ☐ Moderate dental disease ☐ Severe dental disease ☐
Broken, missing or very worn teeth? _____
Gums: Pink and healthy ☐ Other: _____

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KORET SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM

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Supply List for Intake Rooms

Performing an Intake Exam

A step by step slideshow

www.aspcapro.org



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Performing Intake Exams in the REAL World...



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Performing Intake Exams in the REAL World...

Challenges and solutions

- We are understaffed, animals might wait days for intake exam to be done.



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Performing Intake Exams in the REAL World...

Challenges and solutions

- We are understaffed, animals might wait days for intake exam to be done.
- Animals come in at all times of day, staff members have multiple duties
 - we cannot have staff dedicated just to performing intake exams.



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Performing Intake Exams in the REAL World...

Challenges and solutions

- We are understaffed, animals might wait days for intake exam to be done.
- Animals come in at all times of day, staff members have multiple duties
- we cannot have staff dedicated just to performing intake exams.
- We do not have a veterinarian on staff, how can animals receive the medical care that they need?



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Performing Intake Exams in the REAL World...

Challenges and solutions

- We are understaffed, animals might wait days for intake exam to be done.
- Animals come in at all times of day, staff members have multiple duties
- we cannot have staff dedicated just to performing intake exams.
- We do not have a veterinarian on staff, how can animals receive the medical care that they need?
- What about animals that our animal control officers bring into shelter overnight or when shelter is closed?



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Thank You!

Stephanie Janeczko, DVM, MS, DABVP, CAWA

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The logo for Shelter Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It features a gold shield with a white 'W' inside. To the right of the shield, the text 'Shelter Medicine' is written in a red serif font, followed by 'SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE' and 'UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON' in a smaller, black sans-serif font.

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Questions/Comments



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