



Lecture title: Examination of animals for their soundness

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Summary: The examination of animals for their soundness involves a thorough assessment of the animal's general health, physical structure, and functional ability to ensure it is free from disease, defects, or lameness. This includes observing the animal from a distance for gait, posture, behavior, and coat condition, followed by a close clinical examination of the limbs, joints, head, mucous membranes, and skin. Vital signs such as temperature, pulse, and respiration are measured, and the animal's appetite, urination, and defecation are evaluated. Additional diagnostic tests, including laboratory analysis of blood, urine, or feces, may be performed to confirm the animal's health status. This comprehensive examination ensures the animal is fit, healthy, and capable of normal performance.

A - Examination of Horses:

- 1- Usually, horses are clinically examined in their stables after adequate rest. The examination is intended for discovering some possible presence of vices.
- 2- The examiner stands in front of the horse with a comprehensive sight. The view should include the homogeneity (similarity) both halves of the animal. The similarity involves those of head, ears, eyes, shoulders, fore - limbs and rear - limbs, left side of the body is symmetrical to the right side, also, lateral view must be seen.
- 3- Limbs should be checked and examined properly whether they are weak or intact (sound). if one limb is loose (flaccid), it indicates lameness and feeling of pain in that leg. Animal should be monitored at walking. sound animal should walk straightforward. The shoulder region should be in one vertical line with balanced - body position. if there is a diversion towards the left side, it means that pain is present in the right limb and vice versa.
- 4- Good examination of the joints of the fore and rear limbs.

Examination of the joints is carried out by palpation of tendons. Joints should not



contain fluid (edema) or swelling. Tendons should be examined after lifting the limb to check the hoof being intact, free of disease, rot and cracked.

5- The head is examined by palpation of different parts using hands to check any inflammation or injuries, particularly super-orbital fossa. In African horse sickness, there is fluid (oedema) inside infra - orbital fossa. visible mucous membranes of the eye, nose and mouth should be examined. Mouth is examined particularly the teeth to ensure their regularities, symmetry, absence of fractures, acute projections and abnormal wearing.

6- Other parts of the body is examined starting from the withers till croup withers should be free of fistula "fistulous withers" and injuries trauma. The normal skin must be glassy, clean, groomed" sleek, oily and extensible as well as the cattle (hair). The hair has one direction. If the skin is coarse , non-glassy , rough and highly adhesive to the body, this indicate pathological conditions such as digestive disturbance (indigestion) or intestinal parasitosis or infections with some skin disease e.g. dermatitis, ringworm or malnutrition.

7- After returning back from training or heavy work, there is little amount of sweat. sweat starts in their appearance around the eyes and in the flanks in the healthy animal. In sick animal, there is abundance of sweat in the rib region in the form of soap's form .

8- The animal must have an appetite, able to eat the ration. Feed intake and prehension, urination and defecation should be checked.

9- Mucous membranes of the rectum and vagina (of mare) are also examined.

10- Rectal (body) temperature is measured using clinical thermometer as well as pulse and respiration rate in one minute is also measured.

11- Age of the animal is determined by dentition. Colour is recorded as well as it



height by standard measure stick.

Description and identification of the horse is also recorded including hereditably and acquired marks present on the body.

Some examination require some apparatuses such as a microscope to blood, urine, seminal fluid and fecal examination, to ensure soundness of animal and absence of infectious and non - infectious disease.

Visual Observation

Observe the animal from a distance include the following:

Gait

Posture

Hair coat

Behavior

Breathing pattern

Respiratory noises

Body swellings

Skin wound

Observation of Behavior include

- Individual differences
- Affected by illness/pain
- Depending on environment, changes throughout the day
- Eating, drinking
- Feces, urine