



Lecture title: Sign of health in animals

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Summary: Healthy animals show normal behavior and alertness, with a good appetite and regular eating and drinking habits. Their body condition appears normal, with a smooth, shiny coat and clean skin free of lesions or parasites. Vital signs such as temperature, pulse, and respiration remain within normal ranges for the species. Their movement is steady and coordinated without signs of lameness or pain, and their eyes, nose, and mouth are clean with no abnormal discharges. Normal urination and defecation patterns also indicate good health.

Sign of health in animals:

This includes measurements of:

Pulse rate; Respiration rate; rectal temperature; visible mucous membranes conditions; skin, hair conditions, urination, defecation, appetite, posture.

Pulse rate measurement:

Measurement of pulse reflects the condition of circulatory system. Pulse rate is measured during one minute in quiet and rest animals. In nervous and highly - moving animals, pulse is calculated for half or quarter minute and the result is multiplied by 2 or 4 , respectively Pulse rate is measured through.

Sub-maxillary artery in horse

Coccygeal artery in cattle

Femoral artery in sheep and goats

Sub-maxillary or coccygeal artery in camels



Factor affecting "Pulse Rate" in animals:

1- Animal species:

Each animal has its own pulse rate which differ from one spp. to another. In rapidly growing animal, pulse rate is higher than other animals.

2- Animal size and age:

Pulse rate of small and young animals is more than older and larger animals.

3- Sex:

Pulse rate of male animals is less than from female animals.

4- Physiological status:

Increase pulse rate is shown during pregnancy , exercise , extensive activity, heavy work, hot climate. However, such pulse rate return into normal physiological condition.

Respiration rate:

Respiration rate reflects the condition of respiratory system.

Respiration rate can be measured through:

- 1- Observation of the movement of chest, abdomen and flank muscle. Each up and down muscle movement is regarded as one Respiration rate.
- 2- Condensation of water vapour through expiration from the nasal orifices in cold weather.
- 3- Movement of nasal wings in equine.

Respiration rate differs from one animal to another . Facts influencing respiration rate are similar to those of pulse rate.

Pulse rate of animals is measured through one minute.



Measurement of rectal Temperature:

It is considered as the most important health signs, reflecting the condition if the animal. Typical rectal temperature should be recorded at morning and evening to

evaluate the condition of the animal. Thermometer (clinical or medical thermometer) is used to measure body temperature which is inserted in to empty rectum for two minutes.

Rectal temperature may be increased after food consumption training, exercises, estrus, pregnancy, labour (delivery) and in hot climatic environment.