



**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.

**Examination of visible mucous membranes:**

Examination of mucous membranes lining the eyes, nose, mouth, rectum and vagina (of females) is carried out by naked-eye-inspection.

Bright pink-red colour without spots and abnormal excretion or discharge is the normal membranes one seen in some pathological condition such as fever.

Icteric or yellowish mucous membranes indicate liver diseases (hepatitis) and pathology of bile duct or gall.

Pale mucous membranes reflects anerma and weakness (emaciation). Spotted mucous membranes reflected infection with blood parasites (protozoa) and intoxication.

**Condition of Hair and skin:**

It refers to the health condition if the animal. Hair and skin do not only affected by diseases infecting the skin, but also can reflect the general condition of the animal.

In healthy animal, the hair and skin are glossy, smooth, sleek, oily, clean, flexible,



extensible, elastic not highly attached or stuck to the body. Hair should be in one direction. After muscular activity and exercise there is little amount of sweat around the ears and in the flanks.

In case if skin infection "dermatitis" there is alopecia, scabiasis and presence of ecto-parasites on the skin.

There is normal physiological phenomenon which is the partial fall of the hair in cattle and horses in spring and autumn. Such fall is followed by reappearance of hair in other seasons.

## **Appetite, Defecation, Urination:**

### **1- In Equine:**

Healthy horse must have good appetite to eat food. The normal behaviour of horse is to collect the food by both of lips without its dropping from the mouth. Tenesmus should not be present i.e. normal defecation without difficulty or pain. Faeces of horse have the shape of small balls which break down at arrival the ground. The colour of faeces is normal i.e. golden yellow or green depending on type of food eaten. The faeces have normal odour, free of mucous substances, intestinal worms and undigested food substance. Such cases indicate fault in digestion (indigestion). Horses defecates eight times in 24 hours and urinate many times daily. Urine quantity ranges from 1/4-112 gal on in each times urination should be carried out normally without tenesmus (painful) with normal urine colour, free of blood, and bad odour.