


Physical Exam

WRNC Training


Wildlife Rehabilitation Basic Course

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Physical Exam

What is the first step in a physical exam?




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Physical Exam

Why do we do a physical exam?

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Physical Exam

What is the first step?


Observing the animal in the cage or carrier

Look for

- Awareness (alert, lethargic, depressed, comatose)
- Posture
- Unusual behavior

Assess safety

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Physical Exam

Why do a physical exam?

To determine what is wrong
Help determine treatment

Patients can't tell us what is wrong

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Physical Exam

Before starting


Gather equipment and supplies

- Gloves
- Penlight
- Scale
- Exam sheet and pen/pencil
- Towel

Prepare area

- Clear space
- Cover surface

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Physical Exam

Important Points

- Develop a routine (start at head & work down)
- Don't stop once you find a problem - be thorough
- Use an exam sheet to guide you
- Examine babies

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Physical Exam

Eyes?

- Pupil size
- Clear & equally dilated
- Nystagmus or twitches
- Cuts, abrasions, discharge, swelling
- Blood in or around eye
- Consensual response


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Physical Exam

Video now


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Physical Exam

Ears?


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Physical Exam

What do you look for when examining

Eyes?



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Physical Exam

Ears?


- Discharge
- Bleeding
- Parasites

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Physical Exam

Mouth (Oral)?



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Physical Exam

Nasal area?

- Discharge and bleeding
- Infection, sores, and growths
- Parasites
- Normal air movement sounds

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Physical Exam

Mouth (Oral)?

- Gums & palate normal color (pink for most animals), moist or pale
- Check capillary refill time
- Lesions, plaques, parasites, abscesses, excessive salivation, froth
- Examine teeth
- Examine tongue
- Hinge joint of jaw working, aligned properly


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Physical Exam

Cardio-pulmonary?


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Physical Exam

Nasal area?

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Physical Exam

Cardio-pulmonary?


- Breathing freely
- Respiration depth & regularity
- Gurgling or wheezing

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Physical Exam

Muscular/Skeletal?



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Physical Exam

Gastrointestinal Urogenital?

- Mouth odors, discharge
- Vomiting
- Colored, smelly stools; consistency
- Urine/urates normal; concentrated
- Abdomen distention

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Physical Exam

Muscular/Skeletal?


- Fractures/dislocations, muscle tears, tendon problems
- Joint range of motion, lameness, swelling
- Reflexes/pain responses
- Bruising
- Look or feel thin

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Physical Exam

Feet?




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Physical Exam

Gastrointestinal Urogenital?

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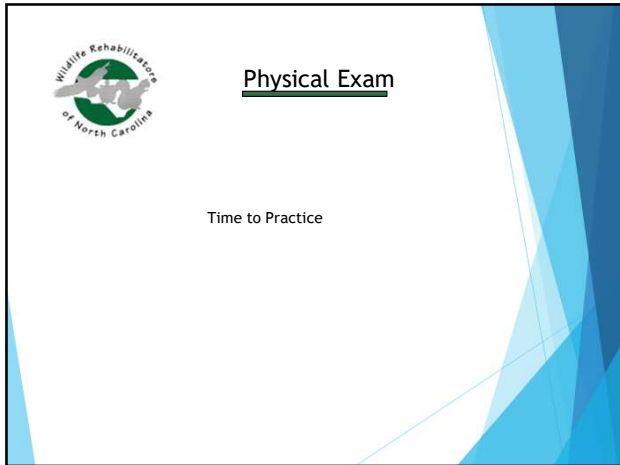


Physical Exam

Feet?

- Pads/hooves wounds & abrasions
- Missing or cracked nails
- Swelling
- Hot

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