



WRNC Training

Physical Exam

Wildlife Rehabilitation Basic Course



Physical Exam

Why do we do a physical exam?



Physical Exam

Why do a physical exam?

To determine what is wrong
Help determine treatment

Patients can't tell us what is wrong



Physical Exam

What is the first step in a physical exam?





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



Physical Exam

Before starting

Gather equipment and supplies

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

Prepare area

- Clear space
- Cover surface



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



Physical Exam

Video now



Physical Exam

What do you look for when examining

Eyes?





Physical Exam

Eyes?

Pupil size

Clear & equally dilated

Nystagmus or twitches

Cuts, abrasions, discharge, swelling

Blood in or around eye

Consensual response



Physical Exam

Ears?



Physical Exam

Ears?

Discharge

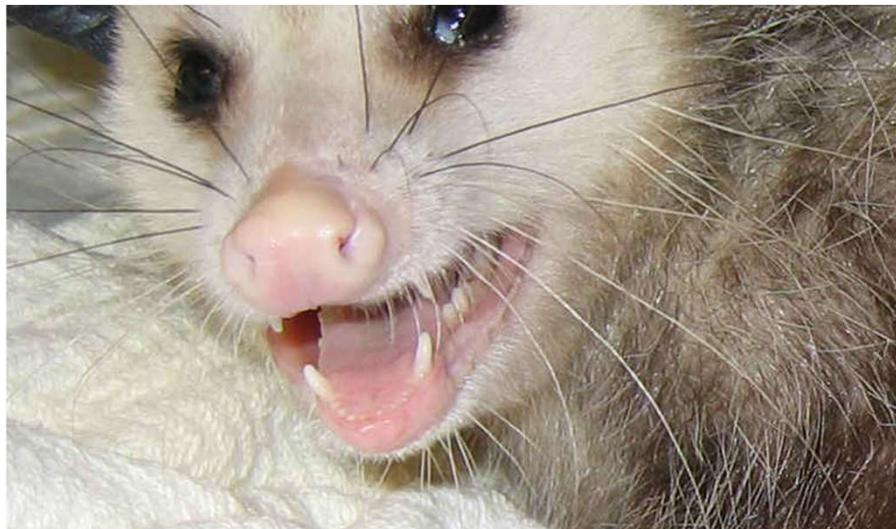
Bleeding

Parasites



Physical Exam

Mouth (Oral)?





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



Physical Exam

Nasal area?



Physical Exam

Nasal area?

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



Physical Exam

Cardio-
pulmonary?



Physical Exam

Cardio-pulmonary?

Breathing freely

Respiration depth & regularity

Gurgling or wheezing



Physical Exam

Muscular/Skeletal?





Physical Exam

Muscular/Skeletal?

Fractures/dislocations, muscle tears,
tendon problems

Joint range of motion, lameness, swelling

Reflexes/pain responses

Bruising

Look or feel thin



Physical Exam

Gastrointestinal Urogenital?



Physical Exam

Gastrointestinal Urogenital?

Mouth odors, discharge

Vomiting

Colored, smelly stools; consistency

Urine/urates normal; concentrated

Abdomen distention



Physical Exam

Feet?





Physical Exam

Feet?

Pads/hooves wounds & abrasions

Missing or cracked nails

Swelling

Hot



Physical Exam

Time to Practice