

Clinical Signs on Admission

Definitions

CWHI Updated 2/2016

- List abnormal physical exam findings starting by body system and location of injury.
- Common clinical sign has many etiologies then it should be available to choose right under the location of injury
- If no abnormalities are found, choose “clinically healthy”
- If etiology is unknown, choose ‘undetermined’

1. Body Cavity

- a. Abdominal: Pertaining to the body cavity between the diaphragm and pelvis in mammals. Does not include organs housed in this space.
- b. Chest/thoracic: Pertaining to the body cavity/potential space between the neck and the diaphragm in mammals. Does not include organs housed in this space.
- c. Coelomic: Pertaining to the combined thoracic and abdominal spaces in animals lacking a diaphragm (birds, reptiles and amphibians). Does not include organs housed in this space.

2. Circulatory/Cardiovascular System: Pertaining to the heart and blood vessels.

- a. Hemorrhage
- b. Bradycardia: heart rate slower than normal for that species
- c. Tachycardia heart rate faster than normal for that species
- d. Pale mucous membranes
- e. Slow capillary refill time: usually assessed by gently pressing on the gums in the mouth and timing the return of blood flow to the capillaries

3. Digestive/Gastrointestinal System: Pertaining to all the structures of the gastrointestinal tract and all accessory organs of digestion. Cloaca is included in this category but is also shared with the urogenital system.

- a. Bloat: can include gastric or intestinal bloat.
- b. Oral Cavity: includes mucous membranes, tongue and teeth
 - i. Plaques: raised lesions in the mucous membranes of the mouth or pharynx
 - ii. Wounds: disruption of mucous membranes by a cut or laceration
 - iii. Broken teeth
 - iv. Malocclusion of teeth: teeth are not occluding correctly.
 - v. Dental disease: gingivitis, plaque, periodontal disease, etc
- c. Esophagus/crop
 - i. Stasis: crop is not emptying
 - ii. Sour crop/ingluvitis: crop infection
- d. Stomach/proventriculus/ventriculus
- e. Intestines
 - i. Constipation/obstipation/ileus: difficulty defecating. Can be caused by a physical obstruction, mechanical obstruction or other causes.
 - ii. Diarrhea: feces in a more liquid form than normal and often occur more frequently than normal
- f. Rectum/cloaca/anus

- i. Prolapse: a condition where all or part of the rectum/cloaca/anus protrudes out the anus/vent. It is evidenced by mucous membranes outside the body.
 - ii. Cloacalith: an abnormal mass of inside the cloaca.
 - iii. Impaction: usually references fecal impaction in the rectum/cloaca/anus which occludes these openings.
- 4. **Ear/Auditory System:** pertaining to the ears and associated structures including external ear structures (pinnae) and internal structures such as the eardrum and middle and inner ear.
 - a. Aural abscess: buildup of caseous or purulent discharge in the external or inner ear
 - b. Blood in external ear: blood present in the external ear canal
- 5. **Eye/Ocular System:** Pertaining to the eyes and associated structures such as the eyelids, conjunctiva, ocular muscles, and lacrimal glands.
 - a. Globe
 - i. Ruptured globe/pthysical globe: condition where the globe has physically been punctured/ruptured. Over time, the globe becomes smaller than normal and is termed a pthysical globe.
 - ii. Proptosed globe: forward displacement of the globe partially or fully out of the eye socket.
 - b. Tissue surrounding eye
 - i. Ocular discharge: any discharge from one or both eyes
 - ii. Conjunctivitis: inflammation of the conjunctiva
 - iii. Eye lids
 - c. Cornea
 - i. Corneal ulcer: disruption of the epithelium of the cornea; eye must be fluorescein stained for ulcers to be evident by the naked eye.
 - d. Anterior chamber
 - i. hyphema: blood in the anterior chamber of the eye
 - ii. hypopion: purulent discharge in the anterior chamber of the eye
 - e. Iris/pupil
 - i. Torn/lacerated
 - ii. Synechiae: condition where the iris adheres to the cornea or lens
 - iii. lack of/slow pupillary light reflex: please note not all species have this reflex and it is normal for some species to have a slower reflex than others.
 - f. Lens
 - i. cataract: clouding of the normally clear lens of the eye that the animal cannot see through.
 - ii. luxated: movement of the lens from normal position in the eye. This results in blindness.
 - g. Retina
 - i. Retinal detachment/degeneration/tear
- 6. **Skin/Integument System:** Pertaining to the skin and associated structures such as the fur, hooves, horn, pads, scutes, feathers, beak, leg scales, wattles, spurs, glands and all underlying subcutaneous tissue.
 - a. Horns/antlers

- b. Beak
 - c. Fur/feathers
 - i. hair loss/feather loss
 - 1. Brood patch: patch of featherless skin on the ventrum of birds that appears during nesting season.
 - 2. Molting: loss of feathers in order to grow new feathers
 - d. Skin/scutes
 - i. Abrasion/road rash: superficial traumatic injury where the wound is not full thickness.
 - ii. Burn-like lesion:
 - iii. Skin tear/degloving: skin is torn back or degloved from the body of an animal. These are distinguished from laceration/puncture in that usually a skin flap is present.
 - iv. Puncture/laceration: skin has cut or hole from a sharp object; This is distinguished from skin tear/degloving in that the skin surface is disrupted but not moved otherwise.
 - v. Bruising/hematoma:
 - vi. Swelling
 - vii. Necrosis
 - viii. Masses
 - ix. Subcutaneous emphysema: condition where air accumulations in the subcutaneous space. Often happens in birds when an air sac is punctured.
 - x. Shell rot: a group of conditions that affects the scutes of chelonians.
 - e. Talon/hoof
- 7. Generalized:** Conditions impacting multiple body systems causing whole body effects.
- a. Hypothermia: Decrease in body temperature below reference values published for that species.
 - b. Hyperthermia/fever: Elevation of body temperature above reference values published for that species.
 - c. Dehydration: any condition consistent with a negative fluid balance. Clinical signs may include, but are not limited to, wrinkled skin, poor skin-tenting reaction, sunken eyes, increased mucous viscosity and tacky mucous membranes.
 - d. Depression/lethargy: lowering or decrease in functional activity due to known or unknown cause.
 - e. Loss of body condition: Loss of body mass resulting in a reduced body condition score (BCS) below values considered normal in that species.
 - i. Thin: the body state where the animal's weight and BCS are below normal values for that species but the animal is otherwise physiologically and clinically normal.
 - ii. Emaciated: Excessive leanness caused by disease or lack of nutrition characterized by extreme loss of subcutaneous fat and muscle that results in an abnormally lean body. Emaciated patients have significantly decreased total serum protein values (often below 2.0g/dl) and will often be given the lowest score available on standard BCS systems. Other systemic health problems are usually present and the condition is usually not reversible with nutrition alone.

8. **Hematopoietic System:** Pertaining to organs and tissues involved in the production of blood cells including lymph nodes, thymus, bursa of Fabricius, bone marrow and spleen.
9. **Musculoskeletal System:** Pertaining to a group of connective tissue components including bones, muscles, tendons, joints and ligaments.

- a. Joints/ligaments: Pertaining to any joint space or joint capsule and associated ligaments.
 - i. Dislocation/luxation/sub-luxation
 - ii. Swelling
 - iii. Joint infection
- b. Muscles/tendons: pertaining to muscles and associated tendons.
 - i. Head
 - ii. Forelimb
 - iii. Hindlimb
 - iv. Mid body
 - v. Spine/tail
- c. Skeleton: Pertaining to the stiff, hardened tissues forming the supporting framework of a vertebrate's body including bones and cartilage.

Under all of skeleton, the asterisk has these choices under the location chosen

Fracture

Angular limb deformity: bone growth deformity where the bone grows curved rather than straight.

Osteomyelitis: infection in the bone

Amputation: complete removal of digits/limbs from the body

- i. Skull
 - 1. Cranium
 - 2. Lower jaw (mandible)
 - 3. Upper jaw (maxilla)
- ii. Forelimb/wing/shoulder girdle
 - 1. Clavicle
 - 2. Coracoid
 - 3. Scapula
 - 4. Humerus
 - 5. Radius
 - 6. Ulna
 - 7. Carpals
 - 8. Metacarpals
 - 9. Phalanges
- iii. Ribs/sternum
- iv. Hind limb/pelvis
 - 1. Pelvis/synsacrum
 - 2. Femur
 - 3. Patella
 - 4. Tibia
 - 5. Fibula

- 6. Tibiotarsus
 - 7. Tarsals
 - 8. Metatarsals
 - 9. Tarsometatarsus
 - 10. Phalanges
 - v. Spine/tail
 - vi. Shell: Pertaining to the fused bony plates that constitute the hard outer surface that protects turtles and tortoises. The superficial outer covering of the shell is made of keratin and is included under the integument system.
 - 1. Bridge
 - 2. Carapace
 - 3. Plastron
10. **Nervous System:** pertaining to both the central and peripheral nervous system.
- a. CNS/Brain: relating to neurological deficits of the brain.
 - b. CNS/Spinal cord: relating to neurological deficits of the spinal cord.
 - c. Peripheral Nerve: relating to neurological deficits of the peripheral nervous system.
11. **Respiratory System:** Pertaining to the upper and lower respiratory tracts involved in respiration.
- a. Dyspnea/Open mouth breathing: is having difficulty breathing
 - b. Respiratory congestion: the animal has audible congestion,
 - c. Upper respiratory tract:
 - i. Nasal cavity
 - 1. Discharge
 - ii. Pharynx/larynx
 - iii. Trachea
 - iv. Bronchi
 - d. Lower respiratory tract
 - i. Lungs
 - ii. Air sacs
12. **Urogenital System:** pertaining to all organs associated with the reproductive and urinary tracts.
- a. Reproductive tract: pertaining to the organs associated with reproduction. In the female, they include the ovaries, uterine tubes, vagina, and vulva. In the male, they include the testes, penis, scrotum and all accessory glands such as the prostate and all ducts essential for transporting sperm out of the body. Although the urethra plays an essential role in sperm transportation, this terminology scheme includes it with urinary tract.
 - i. Prolapse: protrusion of reproductive organs/parts from the body.
 - ii. Reproductively active/pregnant
 - 1. Dystocia/egg-bound
 - iii. Lactating
 - iv. Swelling (vulva, penis, prepuce)
 - v. Discharge
 - vi. Wound: laceration, abrasion etc etc

- b. Urinary tract: pertaining to the organs concerned with the production and excretion of urine including the kidneys, ureters, urinary bladder and urethra.
 - i. Hematuria: blood in the urine
 - ii. Urolith: mass in the bladder
 - iii. Urinary tract infection
 - iv. Enlarged bladder/retained urine: likely from inability to urinate
13. **Clinically Healthy:** no abnormal findings or signs of illness.