

Categorization of Clinical Signs on Admission

Definitions
CWHI Updated 2/2016

1. **Abnormal behavior** Any behavior considered uncharacteristic for that species with consideration to internal factors (health status, normal physiology, etc.) and external factors (season, environmental conditions, etc.)
 - a. Imprint: condition in very young animals when parental attachment and learned basic behavioral patterns are incorrectly established on a human, other life form, or object rather than a member of its own species
 - b. Habituation: condition in which an animal has a diminished physiological and/or behavioral response to the presence of humans.
2. **Autoimmune/Allergy/Immune-mediated**: A disease state that is characterized by an immune response (either antibody or cell-mediated) against the body's own tissues (autoimmune) or a reaction following second or subsequent exposure to a substance (allergen) causing an allergic reaction (allergy or immune-mediated response). Examples may include bee stings, pollen reactions, molds, certain drugs, etc.
3. **Degenerative**: Pertaining to the deterioration of a healthy tissue to an unhealthy state without the influence of other factors such as an inflammatory agent, infection, traumatic injury, etc. This pathology is most often caused by repetitive use, aging, or genetic predisposition. Disease examples may include degenerative joint disease and arthritis.
4. **Developmental/Congenital/Inherited**: Pertaining to the absence, deformity or excess of body parts as a result of faulty development of the embryo (developmental), abnormalities in structure or function which are present at birth and may or may not be inherited (congenital), or conditions caused by genes which condition the structure or function of an organ or tissue (inherited). Developmental and congenital diseases may or may not be associated with inherited defects.
5. **Iatrogenic**: Any adverse condition in a patient resulting from treatment by a medical professional or person responsible for the animal's wellbeing
6. **Idiopathic**: Pertaining to a disease or illness of unknown cause despite thorough testing. This may also apply to diseases for which there is currently no test
7. **Inflammatory**: Pertaining to a localized protective response from the body brought on by injury or destruction of tissues which serves to destroy, dilute or wall off both the injurious agent and the injured tissue. Classic signs of inflammation include heat, redness, swelling, pain, and loss of function
8. **Infectious**: Pertaining to invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in the body tissues often resulting in cellular injury due to the pathogen's competitive metabolism within the body, production of harmful toxins, replication within host cells, or through damage by the host's own immune response

- a. Bacterial: Diseases in which bacteria play a significant but not necessarily an exclusive role
 - i. *Mycoplasma*
 - ii. *Rickettsia*
 - iii. *Chlamydomphila psittaci*
- b. Fungal: Diseases in which fungi play a significant but not necessarily an exclusive role
 - i. Aspergillosis
 - ii. *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (White Nose Syndrome)
 - 1. Clinical
 - 2. Sub-clinical
- c. Parasitic: Diseases in which parasites play a significant but not necessarily an exclusive role
 - i. External: Infestation with any one of a number of parasites that use the outer surface of the body to complete part of its life cycle. External parasites may infect the animal's skin, feathers, fur, or surface of the respiratory tract
 - 1. Fleas
 - 2. Flies/maggots
 - 3. Lice
 - 4. Mites: An external parasitic infestation with mites. This includes sarcoptic mange, notedric mange, demodectic mange, feather mites, chiggers, ear mites, etc
 - 5. Ticks
 - ii. Internal: Infestation with any one of a number of parasites that require an internal body compartment to complete its life cycle
 - 1. Protozoa: Diseases in which Protozoa (a single-celled parasite) plays a significant but not necessarily an exclusive role
 - a. Trichamoniasis
 - b. Hemoparasites: An infection by one of several species of parasites that may be found in the blood (within or outside of the blood cells)
 - i. Hemoproteus
 - ii. Leukotocyzoön
 - iii. Plasmodium
 - c. Giardiasis
 - d. Toxoplasmosis/sarcocystis
 - 2. Nematodes (roundworms)
 - 3. Cestodes (tapeworms)
 - 4. Trematodes (flukes and flatworms)
- d. Prion:
 - i. Chronic wasting disease
- e. Viral: Diseases in which viruses play a significant but not necessarily an exclusive role
 - i. Avian Influenza
 - ii. Pox Virus: A viral infection caused by a member of the family Poxviridae

- iii. Rabies Virus: A viral infection caused by Rabies Virus, a specific member of the genus *Lyssavirus* and family Rhabdoviridae
 - iv. West Nile Virus: A viral infection caused by West Nile virus, a specific member of the genus *Flavivirus*
 - v. Canine Distemper: A viral infection caused by Canine Distemper Virus, a specific member of the genus *Morbillivirus*
9. **Metabolic:** A disease in which normal metabolic processes are disturbed and a resulting absence or shortfall or a normal metabolite (substance produced during metabolism) causes disease. Examples may include diabetes, hormone imbalance, enzyme deficiency, etc.
10. **Neoplastic/Tumor-related:** Any new and abnormal growth where the cell multiplication is uncontrolled and progressive
- a. Benign: Any tumor whose typical presentation includes slow growth, rare or no metastasis, and is usually non-reoccurring after removal
 - i. Shope's fibroma/papilloma of rabbits (would people choose both then?)
 - ii. Pox virus tumors (?shopes is included...)
 - b. Malignant: Any tumor whose typical presentation includes irreversible loss of differentiation in adult cell types and a fast and invasive growth rate with the potential to spread to other tissue types in the body
 - i. Metastatic: A malignant tumor with the ability to transfer from one tissue type or part to another not directly connected with it
 - ii. Non-metastatic: A malignant tumor without the ability to transfer from one tissue type or part to another not directly connected
11. **Nutritional:** Pertaining to any disease or injury resulting from an alteration in the processes involved in taking nutrients into the body and assimilating and utilizing them or from deficiencies or excesses of specific feed nutrients
- a. Inappropriate diet: Injuries or illness resulting from an unsuitable diet for that species. This may lead to related issues such as food allergies, gastrointestinal illness, or metabolic deficiencies
 - i. Metabolic bone disease: A range of bone diseases associated with inappropriate diet. In wildlife, this mainly refers to a condition known as nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism caused by an imbalance in the calcium and phosphorus ratio in the body usually resulting from a dietary deficiency in calcium
 - b. Starvation:
 - c. Obesity: An excessive accumulation of fat in the body considered "normal" for that species under present conditions
12. **Physical Injury:** An injury caused by i) trauma from an external force, ii) pressure or rubbing, iii) any kind of burn, or iv) exposure to a foreign substance.
- a. Trauma: Pertaining to a wound or injury, usually caused by an external force that may occur anywhere on the body.

- b. Burns: Damage to tissues caused by contact with dry heat (fire), moist heat (steam or liquid), chemicals, electricity, or lightning.
- c. Radiation: an injury caused by high-energy radiation such as x-rays and gamma-rays.
- d. Ischemia: deficiency of blood supply to some part of the body due to physical constriction or obstruction of blood vessels.
 - i. Constriction injuries: an injury caused by something physically encircling tissue (usually a limb) such that it causes blood flow to be decreased or eliminated.
 - ii. Frostbite: A condition in which blood vessels constrict due to exposure to cold temperatures resulting in limited or no blood supply to the extremities. This usually results in non-inflammatory tissue death.
- e. Foreign substance: External contamination with a chemical or material that may or may not be irritating but usually results in diminished or loss of function. This may include glue traps, oil on the fur or feathers, non-water proofed feathers, etc.

13. Toxicity: The characteristic or quality of being poisonous

- a. Hydrocarbon: Toxicity from a compound that only contains hydrogen and carbon as a *result of internalization*. Typical compounds include products derived from crude oil such as gasoline, motor oil, natural gas, etc
- b. Heavy metal: Toxicity caused by a number of metals known to impact the health of living beings. These metals typically include lead, mercury, silver, zinc, copper, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, tin, nickel, thallium, manganese, and iron
 - i. Lead
 - ii. Mercury
- c. Cholinesterase inhibitors: Pertaining to any chemical that prevents function of the enzyme cholinesterase. In wildlife medicine, this term mainly refers to insecticides used on a variety of animals and plants from the Carbamate and Organophosphate families
- d. Rodenticides: Pertaining to any pest control chemical destructive to rodents. These typically include *anticoagulants* (warfarin, brodifacoum, difethialone, etc.), *metal phosphides* (zinc phosphide), *chemicals causing hypercalcemia* (cholecalciferol) and *other poisons* such as “1080”, strychnine, and white phosphorus
- e. Harmful Algal blooms: Pertaining to toxins released from *Cyanobacteria* that may cause sudden death due to neurotoxins or severe liver damage due to hepatotoxins (liver toxins)
- f. Envenomation: The poisonous effects caused by bites or stings of insects/arthropods or the bites of snakes
- g. Botulism: A toxemia caused by the ingestion of the toxin of *Clostridium botulinum*. Often known as “limberneck” in effected waterfowl.

14. Undetermined: Pertaining to a disease or illness whose identity is unknown due to either lack of testing or inability to test

15. Clinically Healthy