

Basic Physical Exam - Ruminants Livestock Advisors

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR ANIMALS

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Basic Physical Exam

▶ Purpose of Class

- ▶ Help you understand your animals
- ▶ Provide parameters for evaluating animals
- ▶ Means to assess animals on a regular basis
- ▶ Enable you to gather information in order to share with other producers or veterinarian

▶ Hints

- ▶ Develop a routine
- ▶ Record abnormal values with date and time
- ▶ Use appropriate restraint for your safety as well as animals'
- ▶ Examine “normal” animals to gain experience and baseline



Physical Exam – Systems

- A. Signalment/Well-being
- B. History
- C. Vital Signs
- D. Respiratory/Cardiac
- E. Sensory
- F. Digestive
- G. Skin
- H. Reproductive/Urinary
- I. Musculoskeletal



Basic Physical Exam

- ▶ Signalment *

- ▶ Age
- ▶ Sex
- ▶ Species/Breed
- ▶ Purpose

- ▶ Overall Well-being*

- ▶ Attitude/Alertness
- ▶ Separation
- ▶ Symmetry
- ▶ Posture/Gait

- ▶ Equipment

- ▶ Stethoscope
- ▶ Thermometer
- ▶ Weight tape
- ▶ Your senses *

*** Over-the-Fence Exam**



Basic Physical Exam

▶ History

- ▶ What is/are/were the problem(s)
- ▶ Duration – +/- worse
- ▶ Eating & drinking – increased or decreased
- ▶ Diet + any feed changes

▶ History

- ▶ Vomiting/Diarrhea?
- ▶ Shows/Travel
- ▶ How long on farm
- ▶ Reproductive status – Pregnant? Due date? Exposed?
- ▶ Lactation status
- ▶ Vaccination status

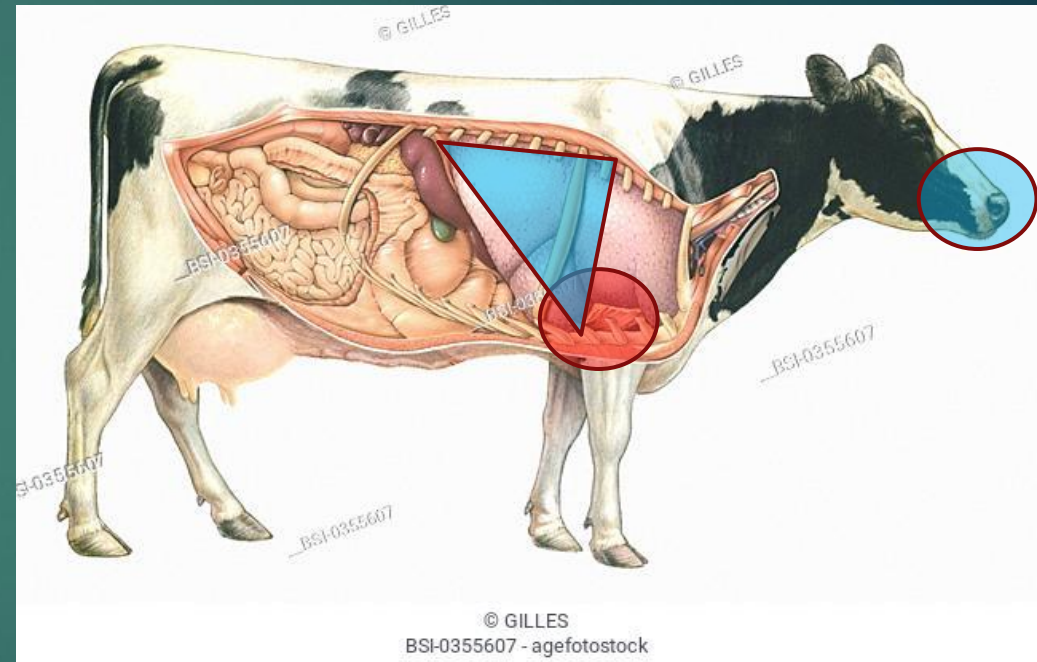


Basic Physical Exam – Vital Signs

Species	Temperature (F)	Pulse/min	Respiration/min *
Cattle	101 – 102.5	50 - 70	15 - 30
Sheep	101 – 103.5	60 - 110	12 - 30
Goats	101 – 103.5	60 – 110	12 - 30
Camelids	99.5 - 102	60 - 80	10 - 30
Pigs	100 - 102	60 – 100	10 - 20
Horses	98.5 – 100.5	28 - 42	8 - 12
Poultry	105 - 109	200 - 300	12 - 36

Respiratory/Cardiac

- ▶ Nasal discharge - side *
- ▶ Flaring nostrils *
- ▶ Extending head to breathe *
- ▶ Coughing (at rest or with excitement), frequency? *
- ▶ Right side – 4 lung lobes
- ▶ **Auscultation:**
- ▶ Inspiration = ~upper
- ▶ Expiration = lower
- ▶ Heart – 2 sounds, Lub-Dub, hear easily
- ▶ Muffled, indistinct heart beats, murmur
- ▶ Capillary refill time (CRT) < 2 sec.



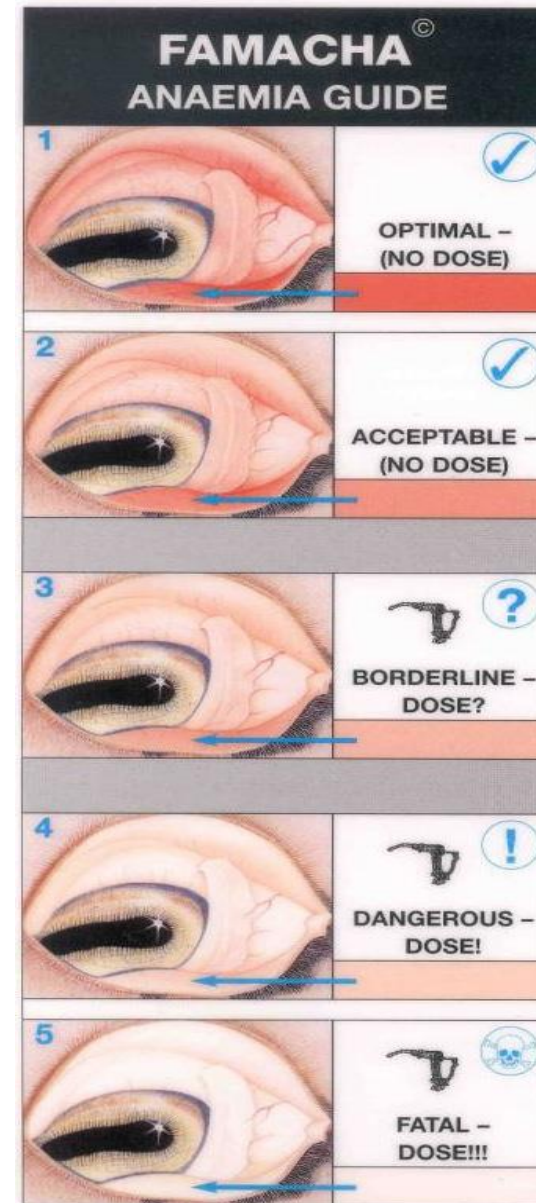
Sensory – Eyes & Ears

- ▶ Right, Left, or Both
- ▶ Discharge *
- ▶ Odor
- ▶ Cornea – clear, cloudy
- ▶ Squinting *
- ▶ Blind – menace reflex
- ▶ Star-gazing *
- ▶ Head tilt *
- ▶ Droopy ear(s) *
- ▶ Shaking head or scratching at ears *
- ▶ Conjunctiva color –
FAMACHA



Sensory – Eyes (Cont.)

- ▶ Conjunctiva color – FAMACHA
 - ▶ This is not a certification in FAMACHA
 - ▶ Primarily sheep and goats
 - ▶ Indication of anemia
 - ▶ Haemonchus contortus infection, nutrition, chronic



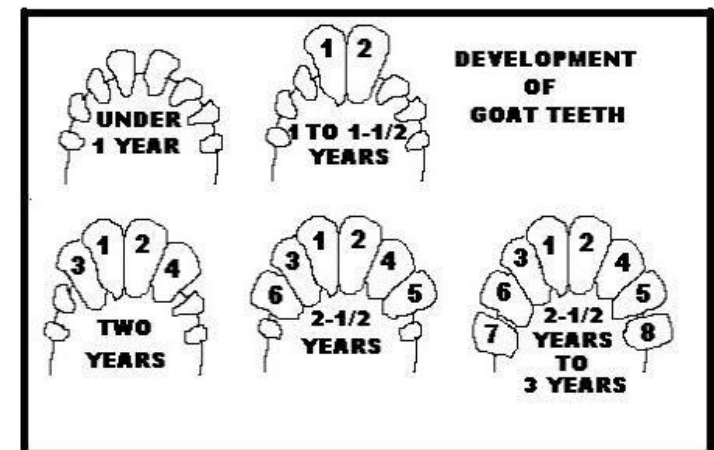
Digestive

- ▶ Ruminants 4 chamber stomach
- ▶ Eating/drinking *
- ▶ Dropping or balling food*
- ▶ Vomiting*
- ▶ Straining*
- ▶ Manure Staining*



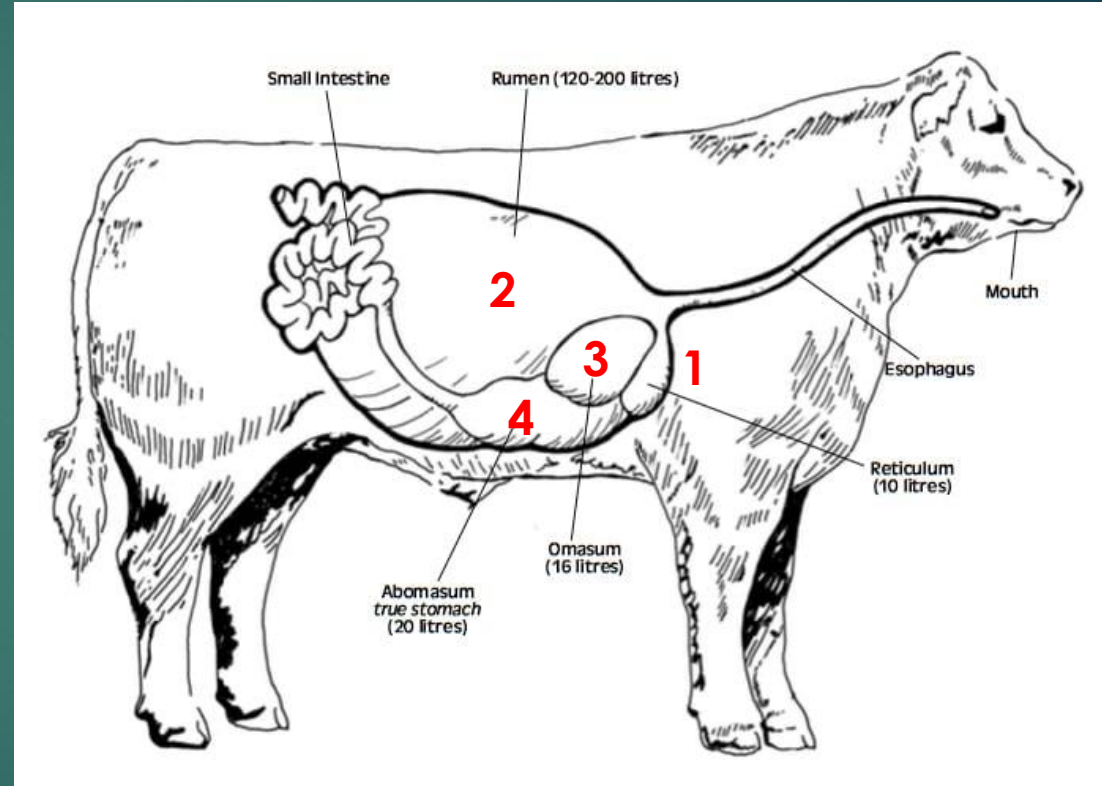
Digestive

- ▶ Feel along cheek and jaw
- ▶ Mouth – Age
- ▶ Manure Score – Subjective, nutrition related
 - ▶ 1 – Normal – Pellets
 - ▶ 2 – Slightly loose - clumpy
 - ▶ 3 – Loose - Cowpie
 - ▶ 4 – Projectile



Digestive - Rumen

- ▶ Four chamber stomach
 1. Reticulum – Hardware disease
 2. Rumen
 3. Omasum
 4. Abomasum – True stomach
- ▶ Rumen Fill
 - ▶ Left side
 - ▶ Rumen Contractions - Feel/hear (2+/min.)



Skin

- ▶ Scratching or chewing *
- ▶ Hair or fiber loss *
- ▶ Inflammation (redness) of skin *
- ▶ Crusts on nose, ears, legs, between toes *
- ▶ Lumps and bumps - location
- ▶ Udder – Normal, small, swollen, side/quarter affected, not letting baby nurse, frequent nursing short duration *
- ▶ External parasites
- ▶ Dehydration Status + CRT
 - ▶ Skin tent – upper eyelid or skin on neck
 - ▶ Less accurate thin animals
 - ▶ < 2 sec. – Normal
 - ▶ 2 – 4 sec. – Slight
 - ▶ > 5 sec. – Will see other signs. Very depressed.

Reproductive/urinary

- ▶ Any progress on labor?
2 hours maximum *
- ▶ Abnormal discharge
from vulva *
- ▶ Wethers/Steers –
urinating? *
- ▶ Straining *
- ▶ What is color of urine?
Collect sample



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Musculoskeletal - Lameness

- ▶ Lameness: which leg(s) *
- ▶ Lameness *
 - ▶ I - Normal
 - ▶ II – Slight limp
 - ▶ III – Severe limp, bear wt.
 - ▶ IV – non-wt. bearing
- ▶ Grazing on knees *
- ▶ Swelling – location
- ▶ Painful on palpation
- ▶ Stance
- ▶ Look at feet & between toes
- ▶ Difficulty getting up *





Musculoskeletal - Body condition score

Questions

