

The Healthy Pet (2/7/2012)

First impression

- Coat
- Skin
- Eyes
- Changes in body shape (swelling of abdomen, legs, head etc.)
- Weight distribution on legs
- Discharge, Vomiting, Diarrhea

Behavior

- Alert
- Aggressive
- Submissive
- Nervous
- Unconscious
- Unusual Behavior (uncoordinated movement, walking in circles etc.)

Heart rate

- Small dogs 70 -180 beats per minute
- Medium and large dogs 80 – 140 beats per minute
- Cats 120 – 240 beats per minute
- Puppies up to 220 beats per minute
- Kittens 200 – 300 beats per minute

Breathing rate

- Dogs 10 – 30 times per minute
- Cats 10 – 40 times per minute
- Up to 200 per minute in a panting dog
- Panting in a cat is a danger sign!

Body temperature

- 99 – 102.5 Fahrenheit for dogs and cats
- higher after exercise; wait for a few minutes before taking temperature

Mucous membrane color

- check gum color above teeth
- normal color is pink (unless gums are pigmented black or brown)
- if pigmented find a non-pigmented spot in gums, lips, vulva etc.

Capillary refill time

- press your finger on un-pigmented gum tissue above teeth
- color will disappear, leave a white finger-shaped spot
- color should return within 1 – 2 seconds

Dehydration

- grab a pinch of skin on your pets head, then release it
- the longer it takes to spring back into place, the more severe the dehydration

Teeth

- Baby or Permanent Teeth
- Missing Teeth
- Discolored or Cracked Teeth
- Plaque
- Bad Breath
- Mouth Sores
- Excessive Drooling

Our four legged guest during class will be the Spicer family's new kitten

Please review p. 10-14 in *Pet First Aid* (or p. 5-12 in *The Veterinarian's Guide to Your Dog's Symptoms*).

For next week's class, please read p. 1-14 in *Pet First Aid* (or p.28-41 in *The Veterinarian's Guide to Your Dog's Symptoms*).

After learning about the proper techniques, we'll practice them on one or two visiting dogs.