

Basic Medical for Beginners

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Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina
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Basic Medical for Beginners

Weights and measures

How to read a syringe

Vet speak

Dosages

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Vet speak

Dosages

Weight

- Weigh patients to determine
 - If underweight
 - How much to feed
 - How much medication to give



Weight

- We use the metric system. Why?
- What is a metric unit of measure?
- How much is it?
- What unit of measure is used for large animals (instead of pounds)?

Weight

- 1000 milligrams (mg) = 1 gram
- 1000 grams (g) = 1 Kilogram (Kg)

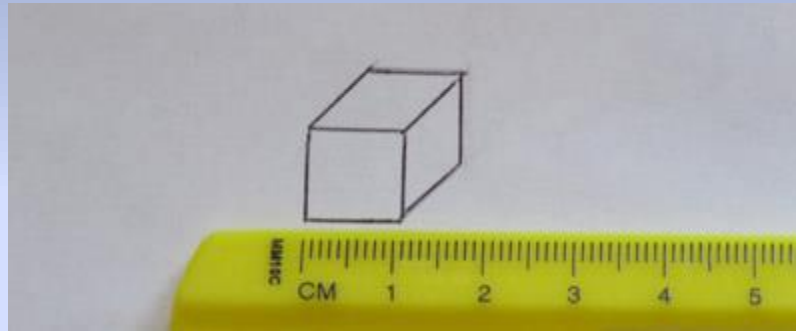


454 grams (g) = 1 pound (lb)

2.2 pounds (lb) = 1 Kilogram (Kg)

Volume

- Medication is administered by volume



1 cubic centimeter (cc)

Volume

- 1000 milliliter (ml) = 1 liter
- 1 milliliter (ml) = 1 cubic centimeter (cc)



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Weights and measures

How to read a syringe

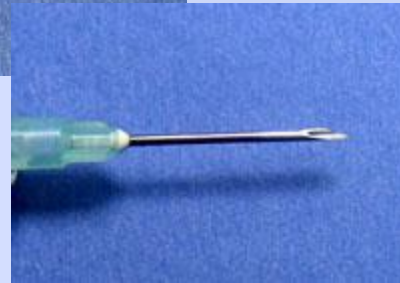
Vet speak

Dosages

How to Read a Syringe



- 1cc syringe



Needle

How to Read a Syringe

- Is 1cc a weight or volume measure?

How to Read a Syringe



How much is actually in a 1cc syringe?

How to Read a Syringe



3 cc syringe

How to Read a Syringe



How much is 3 cc of fluid?

How to Read a Syringe



5cc syringe

How to Read a Syringe



0.1 cc

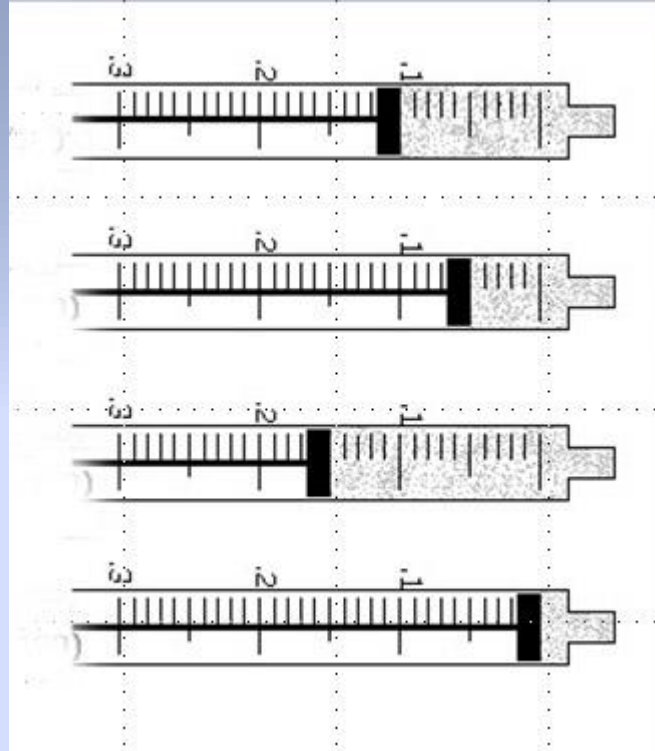
How to Read a Syringe



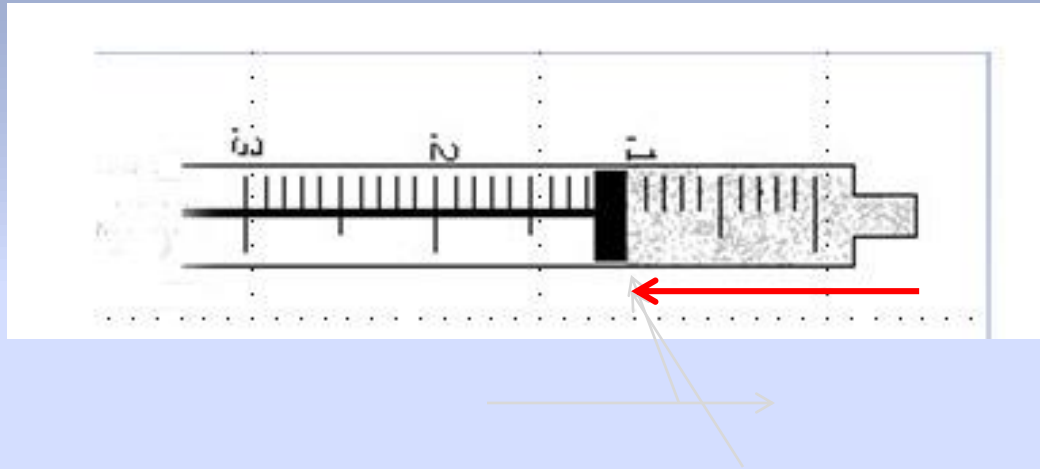
0.1 cc

Which is more .10 cc or .1 cc or 0.1 cc?

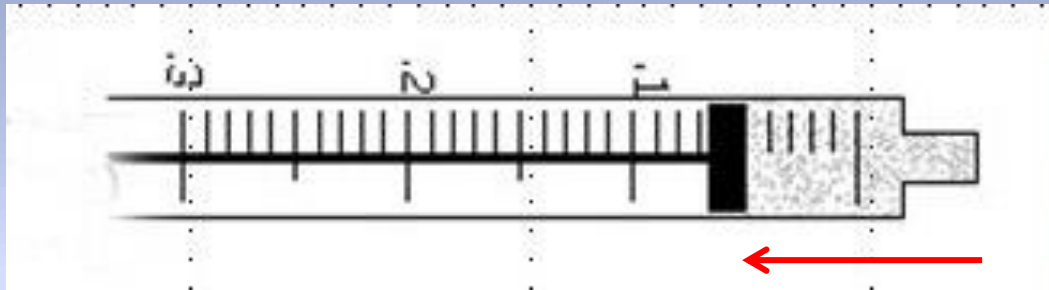
How to Read a Syringe



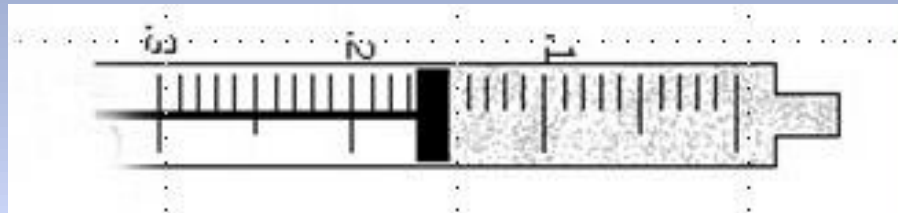
How to Read a Syringe



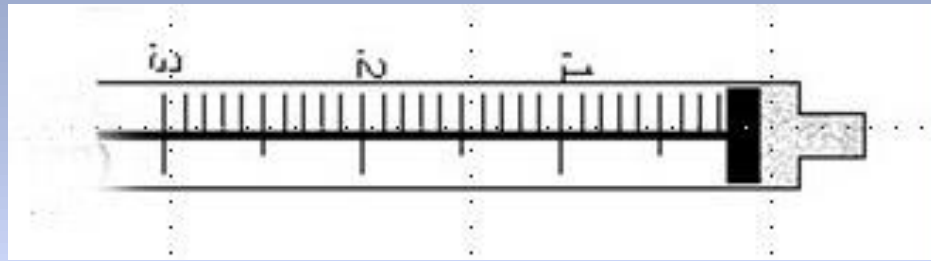
How to Read a Syringe



How to Read a Syringe



How to Read a Syringe



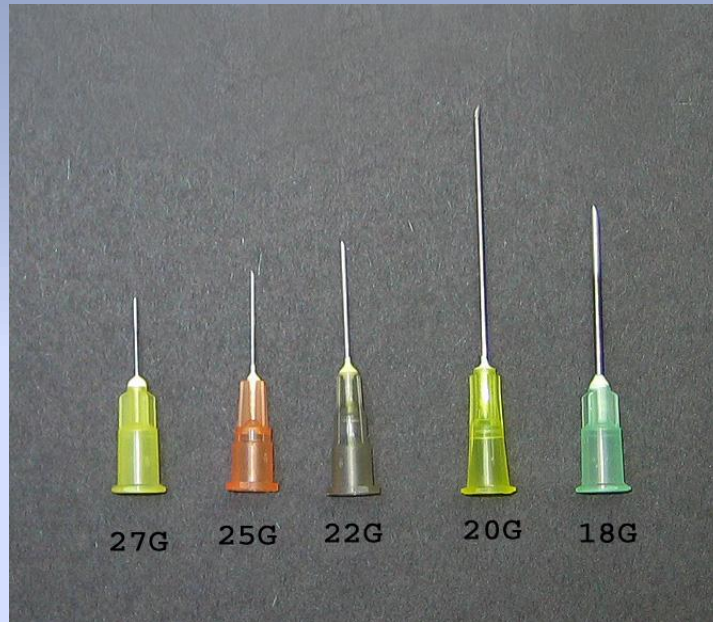
How to Read a Syringe



Luer lock

Slip lock

How to Read a Syringe



Needle gauge

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Skit goes here

Rehabber: I'm here to pick up the injured adult possum you called about. How is he?

Vet: Well, he's badly injured. We had some problems with hypothermia (**too cold**) when he came in but we got that under control.

Rehabber: Uhhh....good?

Vet: He has a nondisplaced hairline (**cracked but still aligned**) fracture (**break**) of the lower jaw but the uninjured side is stabilizing (**holding it in place**) it so feeding soft foods for a few weeks should take care of that.

Rehabber: Soft foods, OK.

Vet: The biggest problem is a compound (**bone sticking through skin**) fracture of the distal (**far/distant portion of**) humerus (**bone of upper arm**). There were some contusions (**bruises**) over the proximal (**near**) area. We repaired it surgically and sutured (**stitched**) the wound, but there's always the danger of sepsis (**severe reaction to infection**).

Rehabber: Sepsis?

Vet: Yes. I'm sending home an antibiotic. The dosage (**amount given at one time**) is 15 mg (**milligrams**) per kilogram. The possum weighs 1 kg (**kilogram**). I've drawn it up for you. Here are six syringes. Each one has 15 mg in 0.2 ml (**milliliter**). Give it IM (**intramuscular**) once a day times six.

Rehabber : IM?

Vet: Yes IM, not subq (**subcutaneous, under the skin**). Although if he becomes dehydrated you can give some saline subq. Try to give lots of PO (**orally, by mouth**) fluids, though, to prevent it.

Rehabber: What about the wound?

Vet: Dress it b.i.d. (**every 12 hours**) and apply Neosporin to the sutures so they don't stick to the dressing. You will need to palpate (**examine by touch**) around the suture line to check for swelling or drainage. There was a pretty large hematoma (**collection of blood**) in there. The radiograph (**x-ray**) showed a tiny chip fracture on the dorsal (**top/back**) side of a vertebrae on the distal portion of the tail, but the ventral (**under/belly**) side is undamaged. That area shouldn't require any treatment.

Rehabber: Thank goodness!

Vet: bring him back in a week so I can do a recheck OK?

Rehabber: Right. (takes the box and shuffles off mumbling) Oh man.... I've REALLY got to take a class!

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Dosage

The amount of medicine depends on the weight of the animal

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Dosage

- Amount of medication to administer for each unit of weight of the animal
- Stated in milligrams per kilogram of body weight (mg/kg)

Example: 15 mg/kg

Administration Frequency

- SID – once daily (every 24 hours)
- BID – twice daily (every 12 hours)
- TID – three times daily (every 8 hours)
- QID – four times daily (every 6 hours)

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By xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx