



## Physical Exam

WRNC Training

# Wildlife Rehabilitation Basic Course



## Physical Exam

# Important Points

Develop a routine (start at head & work down)

Don't stop once you find a problem

Examine babies



# Physical Exam

What is the first step in a physical exam?

Observing the animal in the cage





## Physical Exam

What do you look for when examining

Eyes?





## Physical Exam

### Eyes?

Clear & equally dilated

Nystagmus or twitches

Cuts, abrasions, discharge, swelling

Blood in or around eye

Consensual response



## Physical Exam

Ears?



# Physical Exam

## Ears?

Discharge

Bleeding

Parasites



## Physical Exam

### Mouth (Oral)?







## Physical Exam

# Mouth (Oral)?

Gums & palate normal color (pink for most animals)  
and moist or pale

Check capillary refill time

Lesions, plaques, parasites, abscesses, excessive  
salivation, froth

Examine teeth

Hinge joint of jaw working, aligned properly



## Physical Exam

Nasal area?



## Physical Exam

### Nasal area?

Check nares for discharge, bleeding, infection, sores, growths, and parasites

Normal air movement sounds



## Physical Exam

Cardio-pulmonary?



## Physical Exam

# Cardio-pulmonary?

Breathing freely

Respiration depth & regularity

Gurgling or wheezing



## Physical Exam

# Muscular/Skeletal?





## Physical Exam

# Muscular/Skeletal?

Fractures/dislocations, muscle tears, tendon problems

Joint movement, lameness, swelling, hot spots

Reflexes/pain responses

Bruising

Look or feel thin



## Physical Exam

Gastrointestinal Urogenital?





## Physical Exam

# Gastrointestinal Urogenital?

Mouth odors, discharge

Vomiting

Colored, smelly stools; consistency

Urine/urates normal; concentrated

Abdomen distention



# Physical Exam

## Feet?





# Physical Exam

## Feet?

Pads/hooves wounds & abrasions

Swelling

Hot