

BASICS

(part deux)

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Physical Exam/Evaluation

- History-importance addressed previously
 - may suggest where to begin if animal's injuries not obvious
 - may not always be accurate, may even be wrong!
 - Especially when it comes to length of time with rescuer
 - Estimation of amounts and sizes
 - If kidnapped or temporarily stunned, may be able to get animal to its rightful home without a stay in hospital

What's this?

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- Observe animal before removing from container
 - Mentation
 - aware of you? Screech owls frequently don't acknowledge
 - head scanning constantly?
 - Sleeping or drowsy even when stimulated with touch
 - Symmetry
 - holding all limbs equally in normal position
 - holding head upright, not tilted
 - eyes both open equally and pupils same size (not always abnormal in birds)
 - Look what rescuer put in container
 - may give clues to problems
 - may be entertaining (underwear)

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- Observe animal before removing from container
 - some asymmetries can be very subtle

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- Observe animal before removing from container
 - some asymmetries can be more obvious

What's this?

Exam/Evaluation

- Standardize your exam!
 - TPR, MM, CRT, PCV/TS, Fecal
 - symmetry, organ systems
 - Function, bleeding, trauma, wounds, amputations, body condition, feather/scale/coat condition, dyspnea, hydration status, etc.
 - Always cover animal in same order
 - Do what works best for you
 - Front to back, Head to toe, outside to inside, etc.
 - Form/record kept current

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- TPR, MM, CRT, PCV/TS, UA, Fecal
 - lots of initials, very helpful items

What's this?

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- TPR, MM, CRT, PCV/TS, UA, Fecal
 - TPR
 - Temperature, Pulse, Respiration
 - Temps mainly for mammals
 - bird temperatures not reliable, normally off thermometer's scale and reptile temps vary with the environment
 - get respiration before animal stressed with restraint
 - can feel for pulses in chest, neck, hock and carpus
 - can use stethoscope to hear heartbeat- best over left chest at elbow in mammals, snakes roll on back and watch for movement midbody, birds on back between wings

What's this?

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- TPR, MM, CRT, PCV/TS, UA, Fecal
 - MM/CRT
 - mucous membrane color and capillary refill time
 - usually assess moisture in membrane too.
 - Simple but excellent monitoring method of cardiovascular status
 - pink and short refill- tissues are oxygenated and blood pressure is normal
 - red and short refill- over heated, feverish, severe GI problems
 - pale and slow- mild shockiness, be careful
 - pale and short- anemia, bloodloss but not yet in shock
 - blue and slow- poor oxygenation-possible obstruction, pneumonia
 - emergency situation
 - white and no refill- grave situation, probably dead

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- MM/CRT continued- How to
 - find a mucous membrane
 - usually gums used, but anus and inside of eyelid can be visualized for color if sticking hands in

- a mouth is not an option
- evaluate its wetness by pressing a finger on the area
- immediately release and count amount of time for refilling

Exam/Evaluation (hour 2)

- TPR, MM, CRT, PCV/TS, UA, Fecal
 - PCV/TS-Packed Cell Volume or Hematocrit or 'crit/ total solids or total protein
 - requires minimal equipment:
 - centrifuge
 - refractometer
 - scale
 - Volume of red cells can tell you if anemic or dehydrated
 - 25-40% mammals
 - 45-50% birds
 - Thick layer of white cells can indicate infection
 - TS tells you specific gravity or density of liquid portion of blood
 - can indicate starvation or dehydration
 - color can point to some metabolic problems

What's this?

Fecals!

- Most wild animals carry an acceptable (to them) parasite burden
- Stress of confinement reduces immunity and worm burden can increase
- Advisable to treat if positive but need to know what parasite is infecting
- Different dewormers for different bugs
- just need poop, microscope, slides and solution

Fluids Before Feeding

- It is important for any animal to be warm and hydrated before you attempt to feed
- Fluids can be given by gavage (stomach tube), injection or by soaking with some reptile species
 - Injections can be SQ, IV, IP, ICe or IO
 - SQ is easiest and will absorb slowly over time
 - Depending on the severity of dehydration SQ may not be adequate
- Heat can be provided by a heat lamp, heating pad, hot water bottles, rice socks, chemical pack (hand warmer) or even towels or sheets if no a/c

What's this?

Calculate Fluid Replacement

- Has there been blood loss?
- Is the skin “tenting”? Do pinch test.
- Is the animal in shock? Do mucous membranes appear pale, white and/or tacky?
- R.O.T. 30-60 ml/kg/24 hours, reptiles 15ml/kg/day
 - Saline or normosol will be more bioavailable for young animals than LRS
- Never give any fluids with dextrose SQ
 - Will cause skin sloughing, can cause bacterial infection
- Please attend fluid therapy replacement workshop

Basics Environment

- Keep domestic animals away from wildlife
- Keep predators out of visual contact from prey species
 - Realize that there are olfactory and aural components as well
 - Cover cages
- Keep environment warm, dark and quiet
- Enrichment items
- Proper cage sizes and types

What's this?

Treatment

- Deworming
- Cleaning wounds/debriding
- Bandaging
- Injections-go to venipuncture/injection workshop
- Fluids-go to fluid therapy workshop
- Housing
 - Restricting movement, etc.
- Critical care/Veterinary assistance
- Disease transmission/zoonoses
- Diet and nutrition

Additional Considerations

- Critical care/Veterinary assistance
- Disease transmission/zoonoses- go to lecture specifically on this
- Nutrition- equally as important as medical care
 - go to lecture specifically on this

What's this? Release Criteria

- Evaluation of patient
- Criteria for species
- Site selection
 - Legalities (mammals cannot be relocated)

What about ME!?

- We know you want to help animals any way you can, but you have to be healthy to do so
- Handling wild animals has associated risks
- You also need to evaluate your risks as well as evaluating your patients

Risk Factors-

Training and Experience of personnel

- New methods must be practiced until they become habit

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Risk Factors- what you can do to minimize them!

- Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands.

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- Wear PPE (personal protective equipment)- gloves, waterproof shoes or boots, masks, goggles, long pants and long sleeves, insect repellent

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- Have yourself evaluated and vaccinated regularly!
 - Those working with rabies vector species should have a rabies vaccine
 - tetanus
 - screens for Toxoplasmosis, Rubella, Hepatitis A,B, and nonA/B
 - fecals!

Some ancillary items...

- Need to identify patients in house
 - plastic bands for most birds' legs
 - must remove before release
 - need permit to put official metal bands
 - tape and marker for turtles
 - can clip hair for mamals or note scars/identifying marks
 - not allowed to microchip