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| **Fund for Animals****Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch** | **Operational Management System** |  |
| **Number** | 200  | **Author**  | Dr. Dickie J. Vest | **Effective Date** | 1/24/2014 |
| **Security Level** |  | **Approval** | Dr. Dickie J. Vest | **Revised Date** | 2/11/2014 |
| **Title** | Basic Equine Physical Exam |

**Purpose:** **A deliberate physical examination of any patient provides insight into the nature of the presenting complaint. Advanced diagnostics are no substitute for a thorough, detailed physical examination. A complete physical examination will be performed on any patient, when applicable, when presented for veterinary examination.**

**Empowering animal care staff to perform physical examinations not only increases their technical proficiencies, but also aids in the triage process when dealing with a wide array of presenting complaints. Animal care staff, ranch hand employees, and even veterinary staff WILL NOT interpret these standards as required if there is a personnel safety situation present that makes these procedures inherently dangerous.**

**Basic Physical Examination:**

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|  | 1. Apply lubrication to thermometer. Gently insert thermometer into rectum. Rectal temperature: normal may range from 98°F to 101.5°F, environmental factors may change normal values. |  | 5. Mucous Membrane Color: normal gum color is pink, abnormal findings include pale color indicating anemia or poor perfusion; hyperemic or bright red indicating toxemia. |
|  | 2. Obtain Heart rate with stethoscope applied just behind elbow. Heart rate (HR), or pulse: normal is 36-44 beats per minute (BPM). Increases in HR indicate pain in some patients, especially rates above 60 BPM. |  | 5. Mucous Membrane Texture: normal is moist; abnormal is dry, indicating dehydration. |
|  | 3. Pulse can be obtained by palpating the Linguofacial artery which can be found by running finger along the length of the jawline.  |  | 7. Capillary Refill Time: When the mucous membranes of the gum is blanched with digital pressure, color will normally return in less than 2 seconds, a prolonged refill time is considered abnormal and is consistent with decreased circulatory capabilities. |
|  | 4. Observe the respiratory rate by watching the movement of the thorax.  Respiratory Rate (RPM), normal can be anywhere from 16-24 RPM but is environmentally dependent. Observe nostrils and flanks for labored breathing. |  | 8. Skin Tent – Although a crude test of hydration, “pinching” the skin over the neck can give a rough estimation of hydration, after pinching the skin, a return to original position greater than 2 seconds may be considered abnormal. |
|  | 9. Gastrointestinal Sounds – a subjective analysis of gastrointestinal motility, this topic is addressed in the training topics for new hire employees, interns and externs. |