**Clinical examination of the animal**

Clinical examination has three aspects:

**1- History taking method or case history.**

**2- Examination of the environment.**

**3- The animals’ examination.**

**1-History taking method**

1. **Disease history**
2. **Patient data**
3. **Management history**

◈**Disease history**

1. Present disease
2. Morbidity and mortality
3. Prior treatment
4. Prophylactic and control measures
5. Previous disease

◈**Management history**

1. Nutrition
2. Breeding and reproductive efficacy.
3. Climate
4. General management

◈ **Patient data**

1. Owner name and address
2. Animal name and description: - Age, sex, breed, type, number, etc.

**2- Examination of the environment.**

**Outdoor examination**: includes the examination of the soil, air, pasture, moisture, water, crowding, poisoning plants, insects.

**Indoor examination**: examination of the hall, ventilation, crowding, sanitation and hygiene and floor.

**3- Examination of the animal.**

It is important that every patient receive a complete clinical examination. It is includes:

**A- General inspection:**

The importance of a general inspection of the animal cannot be overemphasized, and yet it is often overlooked. Apart from the general impression gained from observation at a distance, there are some signs that can best be assessed before the animal is disturbed.

1. **Behaviour and general appearance**

**Behaviors**: - Separation of an animal from its group is often an indication of illness. The behavior is also a reflection of the animal's health.

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1. **Voice**

Abnormality of the voice should be noted. It may be hoarse in rabies or weak in gut edema; there may be persistent bellowig indicative of acute pain.

1. **Eating**

There may be abnormality of prehension, mastication or swallowing and, in ruminants, of belching and regurgitation.

1. **Abnormal prehension**: - When there is pain in the mouth prehension may be abnormal and affected animals may be able to take only certain types of feed.
2. **Mastication may be slow**: - one-sided or incomplete when mouth structures, particularly teeth, are affected. Periodic cessation of chewing when food is still in the mouth occurs commonly in the dummy' syndrome, in case of encephalomyelitis.
3. **Swallowing may be painful**:- due to inflammation of the pharynx or esophagus, as is found in strangles in the horse, in calf diphtheria, and where improper use of drenching guns or bottles has caused laceration of the mucosa.
4. **Coughing up of feed or regurgitation through the nostrils** is most likely to be due to physical obstructions such as oesophageal diverticula or stenosis, a foreign body in the pharynx.

4- **Defecation**

In constipation and rectal paralysis or stenosis the act of defecation may be difficult and be accompanied by much straining. When there is abdominal pain or laceration of the mucocutaneous junction at the anus defecation may cause obvious pain. Involuntary defecation occurs in severe diarrhea and when there is paralysis of the anal sphincter.

5- **Urination**

Micturition may be:-

1. **Difficult** when there is partial obstruction of the urinary tract.
2. **Painful** when there is inflammation of the bladder or urethra.
3. **Increased frequency** with the passage small amounts of fluid and the animal remains of in the urination posture for some time after the flow ceases in cystitis and urethritis.

6- **Posture**

Abnormal posture is not necessarily indicative of disease. But when associated with other signs it may indicate the site and severity of a disease process. One of the simplest examples is resting of a limb in painful condition of extremities.

**7- Gait**

Movements of the limbs can be expressed in terms of rate, range, force and direction of movement. Abnormalities may occur in one or more of these categories. For ex. In cerebellar ataxia all qualities of limb movement are affected, arthritis, laminitis and listeriosis.

**8- Condition**

The animal may be in normal bodily condition, or obese, thin or emaciated. In an emaciated animal the coat is poor, the skin is dry and leathery and work performance is reduced.

**9- Conformation**

The assessment of condition or shape is based on the symmetry and the shape and size of the different body regions relative to the other organs.

**10- Skin**

Skin abnormalities can usually be seen at a distance. They include changes in the hair or wool, abnormal sweating, the presence of discrete or diffuse lesion and itching. Ex. Alopecia, hyperkeratosis in ringworm.