

The Normal Canine - Canine Head/Neck Exam (Exam 1)

Dr. Michael Nappier assisted by Courtney Snead

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Transcript

Today, we're going to start by showing you how to perform the physical examination of the dog. Before you start with the examination, we wanna step back and take a look over the entire dog. We wanna maybe watch them walk throughout the room. And we're looking for any limping or any symmetry in the gait.

We want to look at them overall and look for a body condition. And again looking for any asymmetry in the muscles. Once we've observed them without putting our hands on them, we can go and head and start into the physical examination. For the physical examination, we're gonna start with the examination of the head and neck.

So we start with the nose, and for the nose, we're gonna look for color, we gonna look for symmetry, and we're gonna look for any discharge. We also want to make sure that they are moving air equally out of both sides of the nose. Once we've had a look at the nose, we're gonna go ahead and gently lift our lip and look at our teeth.

I'm going to start with one side here, look at our teeth, look for tartar, calculus, any fractures, anything, any asymmetrical, any swelling, redness or discharge. We're going to go ahead and do the same thing, by lifting the lip on the other side, looking for the same things. Once we've done that, we're gonna gently place our index finger behind the canine and a thumb here on the incisors.

And very quickly have a look at the tongue, and the pharynx and the palate, again, looking for any symmetry, redness, swelling, anything out of the ordinary. Once we've gone ahead and looked at the mouth, we're gonna go ahead and look at the eyes. We'll look at the eyes.

We're going to grab our direct ophthalmoscope, turn it on, and we're gonna get the first eye into focus. From there, we're going to dial in the magnification so we're looking further in, toward the fundus and the retina, and then back, looking at the cornea. We're looking for any redness, swelling or discharge in the eye.

We're gonna go ahead and repeat the process for the other eye, again, looking for anything abnormal, redness, swelling, discharge, or anything asymmetrical. Once we've looked at the eyes, we're gonna go ahead and look at our ears. And we're gonna grab our otoscope. The ears are a sensitive area, so we want to be very gentle with our otoscope.

We don't want to be pushing or forcing it down into the ear canal. So what we want to do, is gently, with our thumb and index fingers, grab her ear and pull it out laterally. As we are doing so, our other fingers, we can push up on the canal.

We can then just lay our otoscope in and maneuver the canal so we can look for our tympanic membrane. Looking for any discharge, evidence of otitis, anything out of the ordinary there. Once we've done that for one ear, we can come around to the other side and look at the other ear as well.

And both of this ears look very normal. Once we've looked at our ears, we're going to feel for our lymph nodes. And we're going to start with our submandibular lymph nodes here, and it should be right here at the corner of the mandible. They should be small, for him, about pea sized, freely movable and soft.

We're gonna move a little bit more medial, and we're going to feel our prodded salivary glands, which should be a little bit larger, about the size of a lima bean, and it should be fairly fixed and firm. And all of his feel normal. We're gonna go ahead and finish by feeling down our neck here, along our trachea for any other enlarged lymph nodes.

And that finishes the exam of the head and neck.

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