

The Normal Canine – Abdominal Exam (Exam 3)

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Transcript

Okay, so now we're gonna move on to the abdominal exam. Now we wanna start by running our hands down the spine. Feeling and palpating with our index finger and thumb for any sources of pain. Then you're gonna go ahead and move our hands down the flank. As well as underneath and this is also the time in a female dog where we'd be feeling the mammary glands and feeling for any masses or abnormalities there.

So we've done that, we can go ahead and run our hands down both hind legs. And we can palpate for our popliteal lymph nodes here that should be normal and about bean size. Once we've done that, we can go ahead and move on to abdominal palpation. The first thing we wanna do is we wanna look for a landmark.

The most easily recognizable landmarks are usually either the bladder or a colon. So usually we'll start with two hands on a dog this size, and just press in gently but firmly from the side, feeling his colon abdominal area for a urinary bladder. Which for him is about the size of a tennis ball, or are feeling for our colon which is a little bit more dorsally.

Once we've identified those as a landmark, we can go ahead and move on a little bit more cranially. Now we should be able to feel the spleen here, down ventrally. And then most furthest cranially, we should be able to just feel the edge of the liver here. Up under here and then move dorsally and feel up under the ribs and close to the spine.

And we're feeling for kidneys and we should just be able to feel a caudal pull. And then go ahead and move backwards, feeling through our pool of intestines here for anything abnormal. And ending up caudally back at the bladder again. Now we can palpate this way with both hands, we could also, on a smaller dog, come with one hand, palpate like this.

Or an even larger dog we can come from behind beneath the legs and palpate like that. Once we've done that we are finished with our abdominal palpation and we can move on to the urogenital and rectal exam.

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