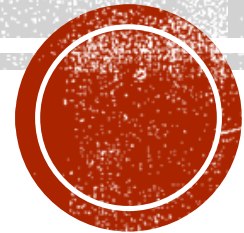


SINGS OF HEALTH IN ANIMALS

By

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Animal Health is the ability of an animal to successfully interact with its environment and is expressed as the optimal production that it can obtain. Disease, on the other hand, is the loss of animal productivity in a given environment. There are a number of signs that one would see to determine if an animal is healthy, sick or suffering from certain ailments. A good farmer on seeing these signs takes proactive measures to rescue the animals from further harm by giving medications. Below are some signs to determine if an animal is healthy or ill. These signs of good and ill health in farm animals are as follows.



A-Pulse rate

Taking the pulse is important when examining an animal..

1. **In sheep and goats**, you can feel the pulse on the inside of the top of the back **leg(femoral artery)**. The rate of the pulse is 70 – 80per minute in the adult.
2. **The pulse of cattle** is taken at a point on the underside of the base of the **tail(coccygeal artery)**, the normal rate is 50 – 80 per minute in the adult. In **buffalo** the pulse rate is 40 – 60 per minute.
3. **The pulse of the horse** is taken on the inside of the cheek(**sub maxillary artery**). The normal rate is 28 – 40 per minute.

Cows and buffaloes : coccygeal artery



4. The pulse of the camel is taken at a point on the underside of the root of the tail (**coccygeal artery**). The normal rate is 25 – 50 beats per minute.

Remember that the pulse will be higher in the young animal. To take the pulse you should feel for it with the first two fingers of the hand.

Factors affect on puls rate

- * **Species:** Different species of animal have different pulse rate, which is number of rise and fall of arterial wall per minute.
- * **Size:** Higher in small than in large animals.
- * **Age:** Higher in young than adult animals.
- * **Sex:** Male slightly lower than female animal.
- * **Parturition & Late stage of pregnancy:** Relatively more pulse rate
- * **Exercise:** Increase pulse rate.
- * **Ingestion of food:** Cause momentary increase in frequency of pulse.
- * **Posture:** Pulse rate reduced about 10% when animal is recumbent than when standing



B-Respiratory Rate

Respiratory movements can be observed at the right flank. Any change in the rate indicates respiratory involvement.

Types of respiration:–

Costal respiration: In this type of respiration thoracic muscles are mainly involved and the movement of the rib cage is more prominent. It is seen in dogs and cats.

Abdominal respiration: This type of respiration is seen in ruminants such as; cattle, goat, sheep. Here the abdominal muscles are involved and movement of the abdominal wall is noticed.

Costo- abdominal respiration: In this type of respiration muscles of both thorax and abdomen are involved in horses so the movement of the ribs and the abdominal wall are noticed .





C-Temperature

Temperature is the measures of how hot or cold the animal body is. Temperature can be measured by thermometer such as: digital and manual or mercury thermometer .

How to take the body temperature of animals

- Control the animal.
- Move the tail to the side.

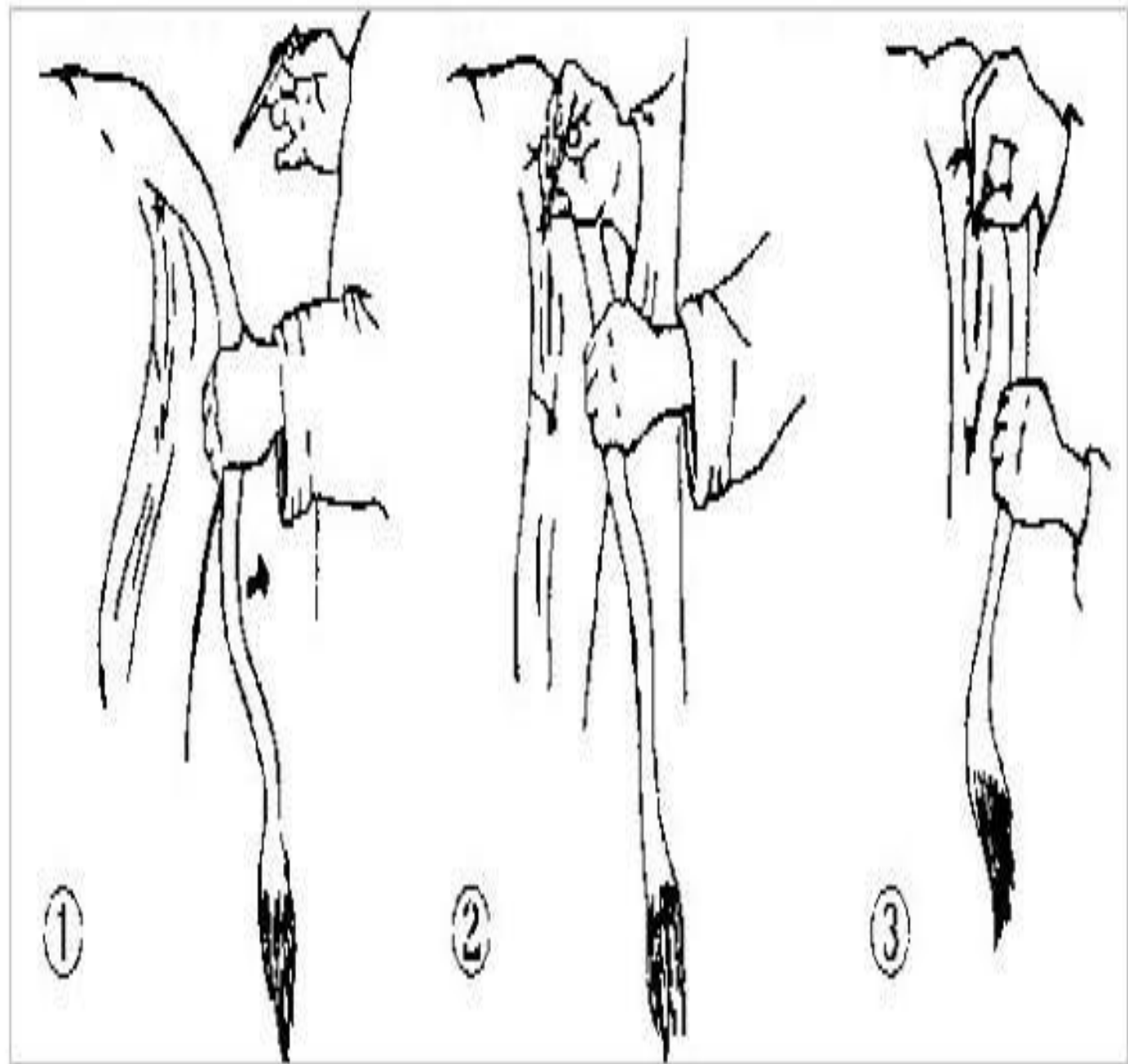
Put the thermometer gently into the rectum, as far as possible.

- Hold the thermometer at an angle so that it touches the wall of the rectum(mucous membrane). Keep a firm grip on the thermometer, if the animal defecates or coughs the thermometer could come out or go into the rectum
- Lubricate the bulb with liquid paraffin or soap and water, when the thermometer is to be used in pup or kitten.

The thermometer should be kept in site for at least 3-5 minutes.

Remove the thermometer and wipe it if necessary and read it. Do not touch the bulb as this could change the reading





Animal	Normal Temperature °C	Animal	Normal Temperature °C
Cattle	38.5	Calf	39.5
Buffalo	38.2	Goat	39.5
Sheep	39.0	Camel	34.5-41.0
chicken	42.0	Horse	38.0
Donkey	38.2	Pig	39.0



D-mucous membrane

The mucous membrane in the eyes, mouth and vagina in the case of females can be

examined to determine the health status of an animal. Examination of the mucous

membrane should be done in natural light (sunlight) not in the lamplight. Color of normal mucous membrane is pink. The abnormalities of color of mucous membrane are caused by different factors. Some of

abnormalities which observed in mucous membranes can be classified to: pallor of the

mucous membranes may indicate anaemia caused by direct blood loss or by haemolysis, a

blue tinge may indicate cyanosis caused by insufficient oxygen in the blood, a yellow color

is a sign of jaundice, the mucosae may be bright red (sometimes described as being ‘injected mucous membranes’)





Figure 1: Congested mucus membranes.



E-Urine

The normal colour of urine is pale yellow. Much deviation like deep yellow, blood stained or cloudy urine shows ill health. When your animal show pain urinating shows that there is something wrong with its urinal system and any other colour a part from pale yellow is a sign of ill health

- The urine should be clear and the animal show no signs of pain or difficulty in urinating.
- Horses, mules and donkeys can have thick yellow urine which is normal

F-Appetite –and Defication in Equine and bovine

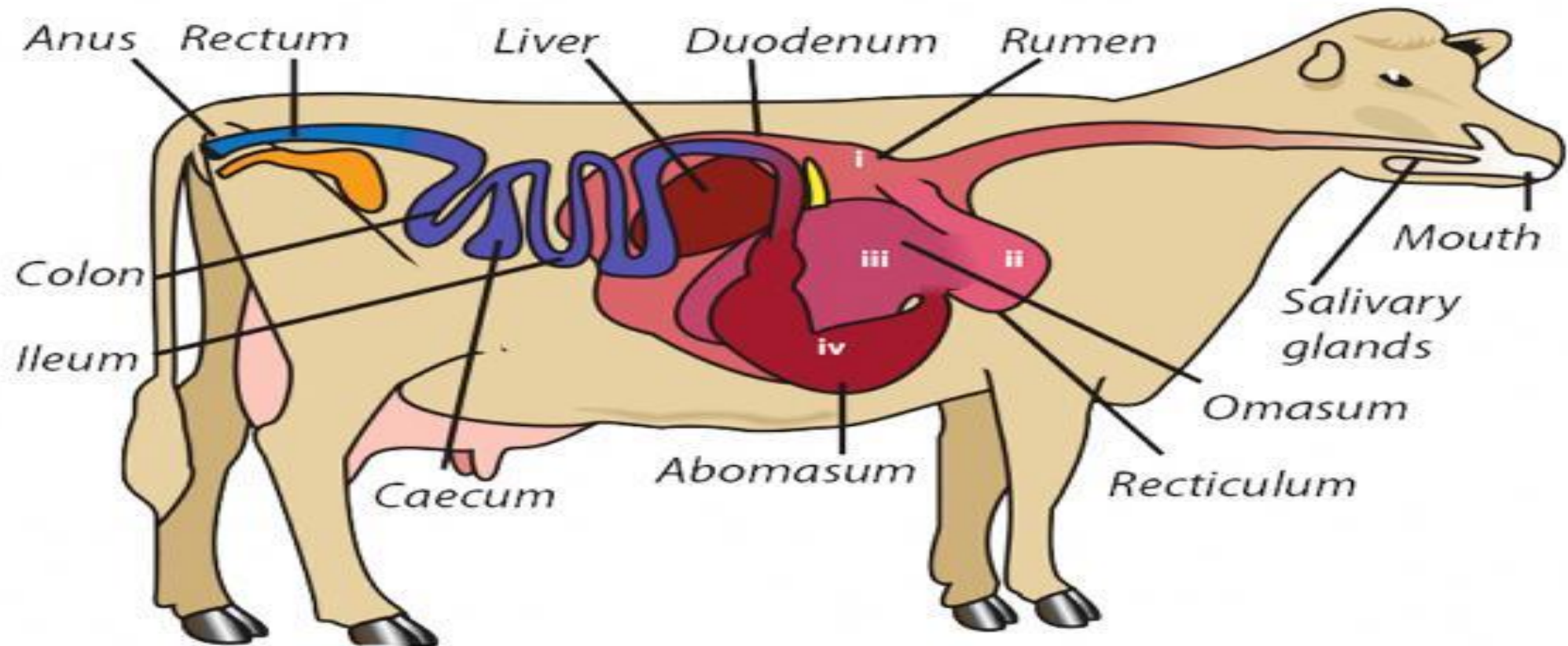
In horses

The animal must have an appetite for food, collecting food with its lips without falling out of the trough

The defecation should be normal without pain, and the stool should be in the form of balls when it comes down and crumbles when touching the ground. It should be **golden yellow** in color, **greenish** in color, and smell normal and free from mucous substances and intestinal worms. Defecation is 8 times within 24 hours, and urination several times. No blood and an unpleasant smell



A healthy animal drinks water at least twice in winter and six times in summer, and if the animal returns part of the water and food from its mouth, this indicates a satisfactory condition



G-Skin and coat

.The coats of healthy animals should be clean, smooth and shiny and show a complete cover. Signs of ill health are; the coat looks dull and hairs falling out. Cold, dry and scaly skin signifies diseases. When you see your animal suddenly show symptoms of a skin disorder, immediate attention should be given to the animal because if that is not done, the hide value of the animal will reduce.



H-Position of animals

A healthy horse stands on its four legs, and at rest it can stand on three legs, and the entry and exit of the animal must be observed, as well as walking and running. The healthy animal is alert to all sounds, but the sick animal is lazy and lacks activity

As for the cows, their heads are always raised, and when they lie on the ground, they first descend on their knees, then put their hind limbs under them, and when they rise, they raise their hind limbs, arch their back, stand on their front limbs, and walk without pain





Thank you

