

## **Daily Observations: Physical Health**

Observing all of your animals daily is a vital part of caring for them—and the best way to identify illness or injury early. Early detection and treatment improves health and well-being.



Both physical and behavioral observations are important to get a complete picture of an animal's well-being. Physical observations may include:



EYES, EARS, and NOSE: Clean and clear



MOUTH: Clean teeth and gums



SKIN and HAIR: Glossy, clean



BODY CONDITION: Optimal for species



LIMBS: Nails, claws, hooves at proper length



ELIMINATIONS: Stool formed

## **HEALTHY SIGNS**

EYES, EARS, and NOSE: Discharge, redness, hair loss, shaking head, blinking excessively





MOUTH:
Tartar buildup,
red and bleeding
gums, injuries,
bad breath,
excessive
salivation,
difficulty eating



## **UNHEALTHY SIGNS**

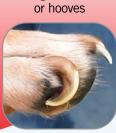
SKIN and HAIR: Dull, hair loss, mats, itching, lumps, bumps, wounds



BODY CONDITION: Underweight or overweight



LIMBS: Lameness, wounds, calluses, overgrown nails or hooves



ELIMINATIONS: Loose or bloody stool, parasites



If you see any unhealthy signs, it may be time to **consult with your veterinarian** for proper evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.

This Animal Care Aid is part of a series developed to provide information about daily observation of animals.

An additional aid with information about behavior observations is also available.

