# Small Ruminant

# Physical Examination

Station 0 – Distance Exam:

* Animal
  + Respiratory rate and character.
  + Stance, Gait, Posture, position.
  + Symmetry of head, thorax, abdomen, hips, shoulders and legs.
  + Attitude, behaviour – Bright, dull, alert, depressed, responsive, unresponsive, obtunded, stuporous, incapacitated, comatose.
  + Lumps, bumps, masses.
  + Lacerations, wounds – locations, sizes , shapes, complications.
  + Discharges – presence and colour
  + Alopecia, skin condition, hair coat condition
  + Parasites – distribution, location, sizes.
* Micro Environment
  + Faeces – consistency, colour, smell, amount.
  + Urine – colour, smell, flow, volume.
  + Discharges
  + Pen design – flooring, roofing, aeration, temperature, size, stocking density, etc.
* Macro Environment
  + Farm management practices
  + Herd size
  + Other clinically ill animals
  + Morbidity rates
  + Mortalities

Station 1 – Rear/Caudal end of animal

* Tail tone
* Tail condition – fractures, alopecia, wounds, parasites.
* Rectal Temperature
* Anal Reflex
* Vulval condition
* Vulval mucous membrane colour, moisture and CRT.
* Superficial gluteal muscles – thickness and tone
* Skin condition – crusting, drying, acanthosis, scaling, erosions, ulcerations, masses, lacerations, faecal staining, urine scald, alopecia, etc.
* Perineum – faecal staining, parasites, masses, lacerations, wounds.
* Urine Sample – if animal is passing.

Station 2 – Left Flank

* Heart – Auscultate for abnormal sounds, rate and character. Knowledge of anatomy important.
* Lungs – Auscultate for respiratory rate, character, abnormal lung sounds such as crackles, wheezes and harshness, know lung field.
* Rumen – Auscultate for rumen contraction rate and character, high pitched or splashy sounds. Auscultate and ballot for splashy sounds. Auscultate and percuss for pings. Ballot for movable masses.
* Ribs – palpate for consistency, masses, fractures or pain.
* Skin and Hair coat – Same as every other station.
* Muscles and hair coat – palpate everything, parasites, lesions, superficial and deep masses, alopecia, crusting, scaling, acanthosis, thickening, thing, moisture, pain, etc.
* Legs – palpate all muscles, bones, joints, tendons if possible. Signs of inflammation, fractures, masses, wounds, examin hooves for lesions, overgrowth and foot rot. Flex and extend all joints, examine interdigital space.
* Lymph nodes – prescapular, prefemoral. Size, texture.

Station 3 – Head and Neck

* Movement of head and neck in all directions, stiffness, reluctance, pain, lack of resistance, etc.
* Palpation of all skin, muscles, bones and joints for lesions or signs of inflammation.
* Ears – Colour, smell, wax, secretions, parasites, temperature.
* Eyes – Colour, corneal transparency, corneal ulceration, lacerations, hypopyon, blood, conjunctival condition, parasites, exophthalmos, enolphthalmos, pupilliary light reflex, menace response, discharges, conjunctival mucous membrane colour and moisture.
* Nose – Patency of nasal cavities and paranasal sinuses, parasites, food, discharges.
* Lymph nodes – submandibular, retro pharyngeal and parotid.
* Mouth – examin oral/buccal cavity, teeth condition, aging by dentition, condition of gingiva and all mucous membranes, mucous membrane colour, moisture and CRT, food, erosions, ulcerations, masses, haemorrhage, smell breath, etc.
* Jaw tone
* Auscultation of trachea.

Station 4 – Right flank

* Most things are the same for the right as the left however there are a few exceptions:
  + Heart – assessing tricuspid valve
  + No rumen however in the paralumbar fossa and extending ventrally you will find small and large intestines to auscultate.
  + Caecum – caudally in the paralumbar fossa, auscultate and listen for flushing sounds every minute to two minutes.

Station 5 – Ventral aspect of Thorax and abdomen

* Skin and hair coat – same as for all stations
* Umbilicus – assess for signs of inflammation or discharges
* Udder and teat – patency, colour, inflammation, pain, texture, consistency, dirt, lacerations, congenital abnormalities, milk samples.
* Vaginal exam if warranted.
* Penis – patency, lesions, inflammation, pain, discharges, urethral process obstruction.
* Scrotum – inflammation, enlargement, shrinkage, wounds.

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UWI SVM