

HISTORY TAKING

History (Patient data, Immediate/present history, past history, Management and Environment history).

Patient data: This data is essential for accurate identification of the patient and includes:

- Owner's name
- Owner's address: postal address, telephone number etc.
- Species, breed, sex, age, name, ID No., body weight, etc.
- Description including colour, marking, polledness, and other identification marks of patient

Present history

This relates to the sequence of events associated with the period of time that the animal has been ill. Points to be focus in present history are:

- Duration of the disease: whether it is peracute, acute, subacute or chronic
- Clinical sign/symptoms: (appetite for food or drink, defecation, urination, respiration, sweating, physical activity, milk production, growth, gait, posture, voice, odour, etc.)
- The number of animals affected: (morbidity rate and mortality rate)
- Treatment given: determine whether any treatment has, in fact, been given before calling for assistance

Past history

In this respect, information should be obtained relating to the nature and timing of any previous illness which had affected the individual animal or group.

- Details regarding clinical features, diagnosis, treatments, morbidity and mortality rates, post mortem observations, laboratory test etc., should be obtained.
- Ascertain the system of animal replacement on the farm or in the home.
- If animal introduced from outside sources, further enquiries should be made concerning the health history and status of the source animals.

Management and environmental history

The examination of an animal must be accompanied by a consideration of its surroundings and circumstances.

Management:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Nutrition | • Feeding | • Proper management of |
| • Livestock at pasture, | methods/practice | milking cow and milking |
| • Drinking water, | • House space, | machine to avoid udder |
| | satisfactory ventilation | injury |

- Breeding and Reproductive history

- Stocking rate/population density

Examination of the environment:

- Topography

- Soil type

- Ground surfaces

- Climatic conditions

- Environmental Hygiene

- An excessive build-up of feces and urine

- Quality of Floor