

Vital signs:

Species	Rectal Temperature °Fahrenheit °Celsius	Heart/Pulse Rate - bpm (beats per minute)	Respiration Rate - rpm (respirations per minute)	Weight	Gestation Period	Life Span
Cat	100.4 – 103.0°F (38 - 39.5°C)	130 - 140 (young) 100 - 120 (adult)	20 - 30	8.8 – 13.2 lbs 4-6 kg	63 days	12-16 years
Cow	99.0 - 102.2°F (37.5 - 39.0°C)	100 - 150 (calf) 40 - 60 (adult)	30 - 60 (calf) 12 - 16 (adult)	Variable	274 – 291 days	10 years
Dog	99.0 - 102.2°F (37.5 - 39.0°C)	110 - 120 (young) 80 - 120 (small breed) 60 - 80 (large breed)	20 - 25 (young) 14 - 16 (adult)	13.2 – 77 lbs 6 – 35 kg	58 – 67 days	12 – 14 years
Goat	101.2 – 105.0°F (38.5 - 40.5°C)	80 - 120 (kid – yearling) 70 - 80 (adult)	12 - 20	150 lbs 68 kg	150 days	7 – 15 years
Guinea Pig	101°F (38°C)	280	84	500-800 grams	60 – 65 days	6 years
Hamster	99°F (37°C)	450	74	80 – 110 grams	15 – 18 days	2 years
Horse	99.0 - 101.2°F (37.5 - 38.5°C)	80 - 120 (foal < 2 weeks) 65 - 80 (3 – 6 months) 50 - 75 (6 – 12 months) 40 - 60 (1 – 2 years) 30 - 40 (adult)	14 – 15 (foal) 9 – 10 (adult)	Variable	323 – 341 days	20 – 30 years
Mouse	99°F (37°C)	Too fast to count	163	25 – 40 grams	19 – 21 days	2.5 years
Pig	100.4 - 104.0°F (38° - 40°C)	58 - 120	8 – 18	Variable	114 days	

Rabbit	101°F(38.3°C)	205	51	1.5 – 3 lbs 4 – 6 kg	29 – 25 days	6 years
Rat	99°F (37°C)	Too fast to count		350 grams	20 – 22 days	3 years
Sheep	102.2 - 104.0°F (39° - 40°C)	60 - 120	12 – 72	Variable	150 days	

Mucous membrane color indicates blood flow to the peripheral tissues.

Membrane color	Interpretation	Possible Causes
Pink	Normal	Adequate blood perfusion and oxygenation of peripheral tissues
Pale Pink or Light Pink	Anemia Poor perfusion Vasoconstriction	Blood loss shock decreased peripheral vessel blood flow
Blue (cyanotic)	Inadequate oxygenation	Hypoxemia
Brick Red	Increased perfusion Vasodilation	Early shock, sepsis, fever, systemic inflammatory response syndrome
Yellow (icteric)	Bilirubin accumulation	Hepatic or biliary disorder and/or hemolysis
Brown (coffee)	Methemoglobinemia	Acetaminophen toxicity in cats, intravascular hemolysis
Petechiae or Ecchymoses	Coagulation disorder	Platelet disorder, DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation), coagulation factor deficiencies

Assessing Dehydration:

Assessing Dehydration: gently tent the skin over the dorsal shoulder/caudal neck, observe eye and mucous membranes	
0-5%	No abnormalities seen – skin immediately returns to normal position after tenting, CRT normal (1-2 seconds), eyes normal, mucous membranes pink and moist
5-8%	Slight delay in return of the skin to normal position, slight increase in CRT (2 seconds), eyes slightly sunken in sockets, mucous membranes slightly dry
8-10%	Obvious delay in skin returning to normal position, increased CRT (2 – 2.5 seconds), eyes sunken in sockets, mucous membranes dry, slightly tacky
10-12 %	Skin remains tented, CRT increased dramatically (3+ seconds), eyes very sunken in sockets, dry mucous membranes, may see signs of shock such as cool extremities, rapid/weak pulse, tachycardia

12-15 %	State of shock, death is probable
------------	-----------------------------------

Courtesy of Nanette Walker Smith, RVT, CVT & Elizabeth Warren, RVT