

What we do during our HEAD -TO- TOE EXAM:

- **General Appearance and Attitude** of patient's gait, stance, and body conformation (BSC – Body Condition Score)
- **Eyes** – gross evaluation of eyelids, cornea, sclera, and conjunctiva – further evaluation of doctor warrants
- **Ears** – gross evaluation of opening to ear canals and pinnae – further evaluation if doctor warrants
- **Nose** – gross evaluation of nostrils and notation of any discharge
- **Throat** – external palpation of throat area for any abnormalities
- **Oral** – when possible, evaluation of mucous membranes, teeth, gingiva, tongue, hard and soft palate, and back of the mouth. When patients are difficult or muzzled, we attempt to eval mucous membranes and educate clients what to look for at home once the patient's attitude is back to normal
- **Lymph Nodes** – external palpation of 5 lymph node areas to assess size and abnormalities
- **Heart** – auscultation of the heart R and L sides for murmurs, abnormal beats, abnormal heart rate, strength of femoral pulses and compared to heart rate
- **Lungs** – auscultation of R and L lung fields, gross observation of respiratory pattern, and respiratory rate
- **Abdomen** – manual palpation (when patient allows and is relaxed) to evaluate for any abnormalities of internal organs than can be palpated
- **Urogenital** – external evaluation of male and female genital areas
- **Musculoskeletal** – gross observation for any swellings or growths, palpation of spine and hip areas (especially senior patients)
- **Skin** – gross evaluation for growths, coat appearance and texture, and skin surface
- **Neurological** – gross evaluation of any weaknesses
- **Temperature** – taken at doctor's discretion based on exam, case history, and client concerns
- **Thermal Imaging** – at the doctor's discretion

We will pay special attention to the areas of concern the client had at the time the appointment was scheduled unless their concerns have already resolved. We will also notify the client of any abnormal findings we see during the exam and make recommendations for treatment and care. We make every effort to provide **client education** through verbal means at the time of the exam as well as emailing and printed education materials.

We always encourage you to arrive a few minutes early. Each appointment time is scheduled between 20- and 30-minute intervals- based on the client's reason for scheduling the appointment. If additional time is required, the staff will recommend minimally half-day hospitalization for the doctors to adequately evaluate the client's concerns and make treatment recommendations. This helps us respect your time and stay on track for our other appointments.