

# Veterinary Science

Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant

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**FAZD CENTER**

NATIONAL CENTER FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL  
AND ZOONOTIC DISEASE DEFENSE

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# Vital Signs

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# Objectives

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- Describe two methods for measuring body temperature
- Discuss the importance of determining an animal's body temperature
- Describe the methods for measuring pulse rates in animals
- Discuss the importance of determining an animal's pulse rate
- Describe how to determine an animal's respiration rate
- Discuss the importance of respiration rates

# Vital Signs

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- Body temperature
- Pulse rate
- Respiration rate

# Body Temperature

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- Elevated due to pain, illness, hot weather.
- Lowered due to shock, anemia, cold weather.
  
- Measurement by rectal thermometers
  - Mercury
  - Digital

# Pulse Rate

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- Elevated due to stress, excitement, exercise, pain, illness, hot weather, cardiovascular disorder.
- Lowered due to shock, anemia, cold weather, cardiovascular disorder.
- Measurement by stethoscope
- Measurement by palpating artery

# Respiratory Rate

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- Elevated due to stress, excitement, exercise, pain, illness, hot weather, respiratory disorder.
- Lowered due to shock, anemia, cold weather, respiratory disorder.
  
- Measurement by stethoscope
- Measurement by nostril flare, flank draw, chest expansion

# Vital Signs By Species

Animal	Body Temp	Pulse Rate	Resp. Rate
Dog	101.5	90	16
Cat	101.5	110	25
Horse	100	35	10
Cow	101.5	50	16
Pig	102.5	70	13
Sheep	102.5	75	16