Clinical Signs of Dehydration

* Visibly tired
* Slowed pace/ less animation
* Excessive panting, signs of warmth
* Changes in attitude (i.e. appears more apprehensive)
* Eyes appear sunken and lack moisture
* Dry mouth, gums, nose
* The skin loses elasticity- skin tent exam
* Delayed capillary refill time
* Weakness
* Pale

**Assessing Hydration Status:**Use the following guidelines to determine the hydration status of an animal:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **% Dehydrated** | **Eyeball Position** | **\*Skin Remains Tented (seconds)** | **Mucous Membranes** |
| Normal | Normal | <1 | Moist |
| 1-5 | Normal | 1-4 | Moist |
| 6-8 | Slightly sunken | 5-10 | Tacky |
| 9-10 | Gap between eyeball and surrounding tissue | 11-15 | Tacky to dry |
| 11-12 | Large gap and very sunken | 16-45 | Dry |