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:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **% 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 |