

SAND2011-4002C

Examination of the Gastrointestinal System

Sandia is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company,
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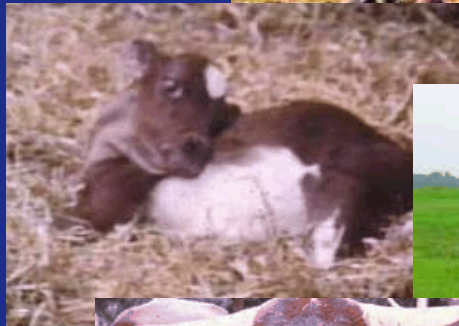
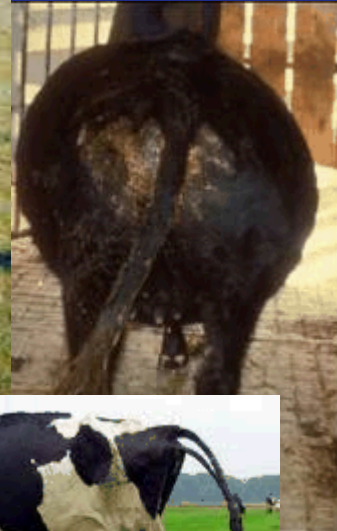
SAND #





Examination from Afar: Gastrointestinal System

- **Information collected during an examination from a distance related to the gastrointestinal system**
 - General body condition
 - Abdominal shape
 - Normal
 - Right and left sided distention
 - Left sided distention
 - Right sided distention
 - Cranial abdominal pain
 - Abdominal pain
 - Shifting weight
 - Laying down
 - Rolling
 - Kicking at abdomen
 - Chewing cud
 - Excessive salivation
 - Consistency of feces





Collecting a Meaningful History: Respiratory System

- **Historical information related to the evaluation of the gastrointestinal system**
 - Duration of illness
 - Food and water consumption
 - Chewing cud
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - Production and consistency of feces
 - Vaccinations
 - Previous treatments: anthelmintics, magnet, electrolytes
 - History of parturition
- **Historical information related to the herd**
 - Other animals affected
 - Duration of signs
 - Similarity of signs
 - Deaths associated with the illness
 - Changes in food and/or water
 - New additions to the herd



Examination: Oral cavity and pharyngeal region

- **Oral cavity**

- Excessive salivation
- Chewing cud
- Mucous membranes: color, dryness, erosions
- Buccal papilla
- Tongue surface
- Breath odor
- Ability to swallow
- Teeth



- **Pharyngeal region**

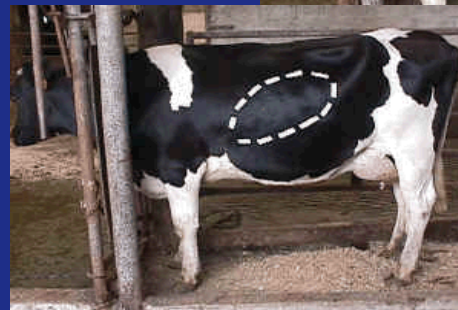
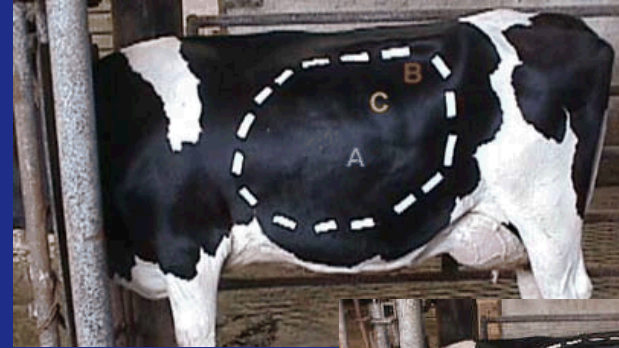
- Swelling
- Pain





Examination: Lower Gastrointestinal Tract

- **Auscultation of the abdomen**
 - Left side:
 - **Rumen**
 - Normal contraction rate:
 - 1 – 2 primary contractions per minute
 - The should be strong and possibly visible contractions in the left paralumbar fossa
 - **Simultaneous auscultation and percussion to elicit “pings”**





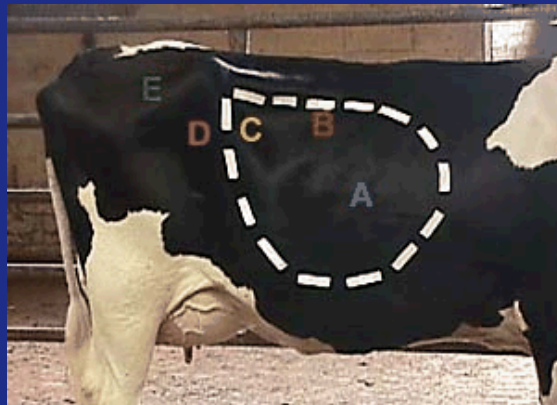
Examination: Lower Gastrointestinal Tract

- **Auscultation of the abdomen**

- Right side:

- Spiral colon
 - Small intestine
 - Cecum
 - Simultaneous auscultation and percussion to elicit “pings”

- What are seven sources of tympanic sounds “pings”?





Examination: Cranial Abdominal Pain

- Withers pinch test
- Grunt test





Examination: Rectal Palpation

- Adequate protection personal protection – a sleeve
- Adequate lubrication is required to prevent tears
- Keep your mouth closed while performing the exam – why?
- What structures can be palpated rectally?
- What assessment should we always make performing a rectal exam?





Interpretation of Results: Gastrointestinal System

- **Abnormal findings: upper gastrointestinal tract**
- **Abnormal findings: lower gastrointestinal tract**
- **Abnormal findings: rectal examination**



Ancillary Tests: Respiratory System

- **Pharyngeal examination**
 - The pharynx of adult cattle can be observed using a Frick speculum and pen light and can be palpated with care
- **Ultrasound examination**
- **Radiography**
- **Microbiology**
- **Hematology**