

# Domestic Violence Exam Checklist for Dogs and Cats

## General

- Most common injuries from blunt force trauma
- Other: burn, sharp force, drowning, strangulation, sexual abuse, neglect, drugs/alcohol, gunshot
- Often multiple regions, different types of injuries or abuse
- Examine for wounds, swellings, contusions, erythema, pain
- Radiographs for undetected injuries, older fractures
- Note mentation, behavior of animal
- Photograph exam, injuries, before and after shaving or treatment
- Use measuring scale in photos of injuries; measure injuries – size and depth
- Lab work: Profile- include **CK/CPK** for muscle injury; CBC, UA
- Consider thermal imaging to detect areas of inflammation/trauma
- Suspected sexual abuse: UV light on entire body, swab/cut fur to collect biological evidence, make slides; swab genitalia, perineal, anus/rectum, vulva/vagina. Use sterile technique

## Head: (Note head trauma, skull fractures common)

- Eyes – conjunctiva, sclera, fundic exam, pupil abnormalities
- Ears – pinna, otoscopic exam for hemorrhage, canal petechia
- Mouth – teeth, tongue, mandible, foreign material
- Nose – nares, nasal bones
- Skull – swelling, fractures

## Neck:

- Contusions, abrasions, swellings dorsal neck cellulitis/swelling
- Ligature indentation

## Torso: (Note rib fractures common, different stages of healing)

- Palpate ribs, sternum: swellings, fractures, abnormalities
- Palpate spine
- Wounds, contusions, abrasions, swellings, pain

## Legs: (Note leg fractures common, especially femur)

- Palpate for fractures, contusions, swellings, check joints
- Feet – check nails, pads, collect foreign material

## Pelvis/Tail:

- Tail – fractures, luxations
- Pelvis – fractures, swellings, contusions

## Perineal/Genitalia:

- Trauma – injuries, swellings, contusions
- May require internal vaginal exam, rectal exam