CANINE PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT
Benefits of physical assessment

- You can find abnormalities before they become problems
- Helps become familiar with your dog’s body so you can notice changes quickly
- Desensitizes your dog to being handled by a groomer or veterinarian
- Bond with your dog ❤️
What a physical assessment is NOT

- This should NEVER replace regular visits to the veterinarian.
- This should NOT be a stressful event for you OR your dog.
# Nose to Tail Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nose</th>
<th>Moist</th>
<th>No discharge</th>
<th>Dry noses could indicate illness</th>
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</table>

| Mouth         | Gums should be pink, black or pink with black spots. | Teeth, no plaque or tarter build up. No teeth broken |

| Eyes          | Clear, clean, symmetrical | Discharge from eyes can be allergies or illness |

| Ears          | Clean, no build up | Clear of mats or tangles | No odor |
Nose to Tail Assessment

**Neck/Chest**
- Feel for bumps or knots above and below skin
- Neck should be strong with good range of motion

**Ribs**
- Should not be seen but should be felt
- If you cannot feel the ribs this could indicate obesity or other health issues
- If you can see the ribs this is a sign of malnutrition

**Back**
- Straight
- No bumps or knots

**Abdomen**
- Should not extend past the width of the chest
- Should not hang down below the ribs
- No masses or bumps
- Obesity/ bloat/ pregnancy or problem in the intestines
Nose to Tail Assessment

Legs
- Straight no swelling or masses
- Toenails should not touch the ground when standing
- Rub between toes Important to desensitize toes

Tail
- Straight not knots or swelling
- Important to desensitize this area

Coat
- Check skin for sores scratches or wounds
- Is the fur soft or brittle?

Itching
- Excessive licking or scratching could be allergies or boredom
- Check for parasites
Thank you!

Charlie

Bucky