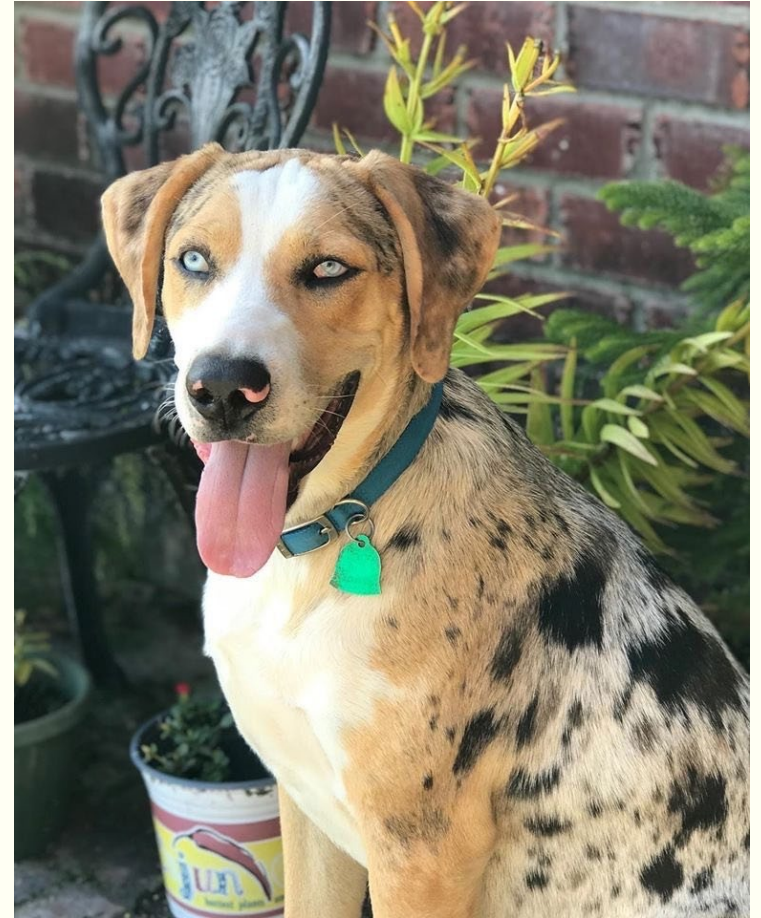



CANINE PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT



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

Nose

Moist

No discharge

Dry noses could indicate illness

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

