

# The Head to Tail Baseline Exam



**Step 1: The first part of this exam is first thinking about any subtle changes in your pet's behavior or mannerisms. Any subtle changes at all can really be significant.**

## Questions to ask yourself and to keep in mind on a day to day basis:

- How are they eating?
- Is there a change in their water consumption?
- Is there a change in their activity level?
- Is their behavior different at all?
- Any limping, any vomiting, diarrhea?
- Do you notice any sort of change in their lifestyle at all?

## Step 2: The Physical Exam

**Start at the front of your pet then work your way to the back.**

- Look in their eyes (are they clear, cloudy, etc.)?
- Look into their ears (are they pink, red, have an odor)?
- Oral exam (sometimes dogs or cats can develop not only dental issues, but they can get masses or growths within their mouths that can be a problem)
- Listen to their heart and their lungs
- Palpate their abdomen
- Body condition: Run your hands all over them to feel for any lumps, bumps, feel their joints, feel if there's any swelling, any pain



**After doing the above, you've now gone through a pretty comprehensive body system analysis in just a matter of minutes.**