



# ProTrainings

Normal Temperatures, Pulse Rates and Respiration Rates for Pets

By checking a pet's temperature, pulse rate and respiration rate we can tell whether an animal is sick or well. Having a thermometer for the pet in the home is always a good idea as it can help us indicate whether a pet needs treatment.

Rectal thermometers are especially useful when keeping dogs and cats, as they are relatively inexpensive and easy to use if your pet is cooperative. Ear thermometers are another option. Following the directions which come with the thermometers can help to get a more accurate reading and analysis.

To calculate the respiratory rate, count the amount of breaths which your pet takes for 15 seconds and then multiply that amount by four. This gives us the amount of breaths which the pet takes per minute. We can count the breaths by either watching each rise of the chest wall or by placing your hand in front of the pet's nose and counting how many times it exhales. Finding the pulse rates can be done by feeling for a pulse over the femoral artery in the upper inner thigh for small animals and, for large animals, the artery that runs just inside the back of the jawbone. Another way to find the pulse rate is to place your hand on the lower, left side of the chest and feel for the animal's heartbeat. Again, multiply the number of beats felt in 15 seconds by four.

The normal vital parameters for common pet species are as follows:

Species	Heart Rate (BPM)	Respiration Rate (BPM)	Body Temperature (°C)
Cat	120-170	20-40	37.8-39.5
Dog	70-120	20-34	37.5-39.2
Ferret	200-400	33-36	37.8-40
Guinea Pig	240-310	42-105	37.2-39.5
Horse	28-40	10-14	37.2-38.5
Rabbit	125-150	30-36	38.5-40

