

Monitoring Anaesthesia - Dogs

ALWAYS ASK THE VET BEFORE GIVING ANY TOP-UP ANAESTHETIC

1. Gum Colour

The gums should be light pink. **Tell the vet if gums are pale/white, yellow or bright red.**



2. Capillary refill time

Gently press the gum with your thumb and remove – count how long it takes for the area to return to pink (normal is 1-2 seconds).

Tell the vet if it is longer than 2 seconds.



3. Palpebral reflex

Gently touch your finger on the corner of the eyelids.

Tell the vet if a blink reflex is absent.



4. Heart rate

Use a stethoscope to listen to the dog's heart – count the number of beats in 15 seconds and multiply by 4. **Tell the vet if this is less than 60bpm or greater than 160bpm.** You can also use the carpal pulse to check heart rate and circulation.

5. Jaw tone

Open the dog's mouth and feel how much resistance there is.

Tell the vet if there is no jaw tone.

6. Breathing rate

The dog should take a breath between 8 and 30 times a minute. **Tell the vet if the dog is taking less than 8 or more than 30, or if the breathing is increasing or decreasing.**