Steps of a Physical Exam - Cattle

* The following 8 questions should always be asked:
  1. *What is the problem? Why did you call?*
  2. *What symptoms have you observed?*
  3. *When did this problem start?*
  4. *Has this affected her   
     feed consumption?*
  5. *Has this affected her milk   
     production or rate of gain?*
  6. *How long ago did she calve?*
  7. *How old is she?*
  8. *Do any other animals have   
     similar symptoms?*
* Head and neck: examine the…
  1. Ears – are they warm or cold?
  2. Eyes – are they normal or sunk?
  3. Nose – is there mucus discharge?
  4. Mouth – is she grinding her teeth?
  5. CRT – how is her circulation?
  6. Jaw – is her jaw swollen (bottle jaw)? Does she have swollen lymph nodes.
  7. Skin – is she dehydrated (pinch test)?
* Left Chest
  1. How is her heart rate? Is it 60-80 bpm?
  2. Does she have a heart murmur?
  3. How is her respiration rate? Is it 10-40 bpm?
  4. Does she have dyspnea?
* Left Abdomen?
  1. Does she have 1-2 rumen contractions per minute?
  2. Does she have a displaced abomasum?
* Udder
  1. Is it red/hot/swollen/cold/chunky/watery?
* Rear
  1. Is the cow’s temperature 101.5o?
  2. Does she have Ketosis (High Urine Ketones)
  3. Are her rear feet and legs healthy?
  4. Does her manure have the right color/consistency/odor?
* Right Side
  1. Does she have a right displaced abomasum
  2. Dose she have a digestive obstruction
  3. Does she dorsiflex during a withers pinch