

## EXAMINATION OF CATS AT SHOWS

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J Small Anim Pract 5 (6) :535-538, 1964

While it is humanly impossible to detect every infectious disease in the very early stages, examinations should be made with such thoroughness as to cut the risk of infection of the cats exhibited and its consequent spread through the catteries to which they return. A set routine is most efficient and makes overlooking abnormalities less likely. With the cat facing the examiner (young kittens are held in the hand), examine ears for otitis and parasites; eyes and nostrils for abnormalities (constant tearing may be normal in pug-faced cats but otherwise any discharge is suspect); tongue for ulceration; pharynx for inflammation. Ropy saliva from pharynx to tongue frequently indicates trouble. It should not be necessary to put the finger in the cat's mouth. The cat's back is then presented and its coat is examined for parasites and ringworm. Run fingers through the fur and examine dry or gritty areas. Suspicious lesions require examination with a Wood's lamp. Males are examined for monorchidism. The cat is lifted

or turned over for examination of the abdomen for parasites, or evidence of lactation or obvious pregnancy. Temperatures need not be taken if the cat is healthy. Fever may mean either infection or excitement. Salivation or vomiting may be related to travel and excitement, and a second examination is advisable after a rest period. Other conditions than disease may warrant exclusion, such as poor condition, especially in young kittens, or cats traveling in the same carrier as an infected cat. Rejected cats should be removed at once, or isolated.