

## Veterinary Early Warning Score – Routine monitoring and triage

The aim of this early warning score is to identify those patients at risk of deterioration.

### Dog

Respiratory rate (bpm)	>40	Red
	30-40	Amber
	11-29	Green
	0-10	Red

Respiratory effort	Increased	Red
	Normal	Green
	Very shallow	Amber

Pulse rate (bpm)	200	Red
	180	Red
	160	Red
	150	Red
	140	Red
	130	Amber
	120	Green
	110	Green
	100	Green
	90	Green
	80	Green
	70	Green
	60	Amber
	50	Red
40	Red	

Pulse quality	Hyperdynamic	Amber
	Normal	Green
	Weak	Amber
	Absent	Red

Temperature (°C)	39 or above	Red
	37.5 – 38.9	Green
	37 – 37.5	Amber
	Below 37	Red

Mentation *Obtunded: dull/lethargic *Stuperous: decreased consciousness, but responsive to strong stimuli	Bright/ alert	Green
	Obtunded*	Amber
	Stuperous*	Red
	Coma	Red

Demeanour	😊	Green
	😐	Amber
	😞	Red

### Cat

Respiratory rate (bpm)	>40	Red
	30-40	Amber
	11-29	Green
	0-10	Red

Respiratory effort	Increased	Red
	Normal	Green
	Very shallow	Amber

Pulse rate (bpm)	240	Red
	230	Red
	220	Red
	210	Amber
	200	Green
	190	Green
	180	Green
	170	Green
	160	Amber
	150	Red
	140	Red
	Lower	Red

Pulse quality	Hyperdynamic	Amber
	Normal	Green
	Weak	Amber
	Absent	Red

Temperature (°C)	39 or above	Red
	37.5 - 38.9	Green
	37 – 37.5	Amber
	Below 37	Red

Mentation *Obtunded: dull/lethargic *Stuperous: decreased consciousness, but responsive to strong stimuli	Bright / alert	Green
	Obtunded*	Amber
	Stuperous*	Red
	Coma	Red

Demeanour	😊	Green
	😐	Amber
	😞	Red

If two observations are plotted in the amber box or one in the red box, contact the veterinary clinician asap.

Total amber score	
Total red score	

Total amber score	
Total red score	

## Veterinary Early Warning Score – Further monitoring

The aim of this early warning score is to identify those patients at risk of deterioration.

### Dog

Systolic blood pressure via Doppler (mmHg)	230	Red
	220	Red
	200	Red
	190	Red
	180	Red
	170	Amber
	160	Amber
	150	Green
	140	Green
	130	Green
	120	Green
	110	Green
	100	Amber
	90	Red
	80	Red
70	Red	
60	Red	

The accuracy of blood pressure measurement can be affected by device. Doppler is the preferred device in patients with especially low body weight, or hypotensive patients.

### Cat

Systolic blood pressure via Doppler (mmHg)	230	Red
	220	Red
	200	Red
	190	Red
	180	Red
	170	Amber
	160	Amber
	150	Green
	140	Green
	130	Green
	120	Green
	110	Green
	100	Amber
	90	Red
	80	Red
70	Red	
60	Red	

Urine output (ml/kg/hour)	> 4	Red
	> 1.5	Green
	1 – 1.5	Amber
	< 1	Red

Urine output (ml/kg/hour)	> 4	Red
	> 1.5	Green
	1 – 1.5	Amber
	< 1	Red

Oxygen saturation	95 – 100%	Green
	90 – 94%	Amber
	90% or below	Red

Oxygen saturation	95 – 100%	Green
	90 – 94%	Amber
	90% or below	Red

If two observations are plotted in the amber box or one in the red box, contact the veterinary clinician asap

Total amber score	
Total red score	

Total amber score	
Total red score	

### How to use the Veterinary Early Warning Score

This sheet is to be used in conjunction with the patients kennel sheet. Observations should be recorded on the patients notes. A single observation in the amber zone requires observations to be continued every 30 minutes and reviewed as necessary. If a patient has 'normal' parameters outside of these ranges, then the veterinary clinician should clearly document this and what parameters are acceptable for the individual patient.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/). This information is provided for use for educational purposes. We do not warrant that the information we provide will meet animal health or medical requirements.

You can share this resource with credit to RCVS Knowledge and Belinda Andrews-Jones VTS (ECC) Dip AVN (Surg) CMgr RVN PG Dip Vet Ed MInstLM FCMI FHEA.

You should reference this resource like this: RCVS Knowledge and Andrews-Jones (2023). *Veterinary Early Warning Score*. [Online] Available at [rcvsknowledge.org/VEWS](https://rcvsknowledge.org/VEWS)