RCVS KNOWLEDGE

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	yellow
	11-29	green
	0-10	red

Respiratory effort	Increased	red
	Normal	green
	Very shallow	yellow

Pulse rate (bpm)	200	red
	180	red
	160	red
	150	red
	140	red
	130	yellow
	120	green
	110	green
	100	green
	90	green
	80	green
	70	green
	60	yellow
	50	red
	40	red

Pulse quality	Hyperdynamic	yellow
	Normal	green
	Weak	yellow
	Absent	red

Temperature (∘C)	39 or above	red
	37.5 – 38.9	green
	37 – 37.5	yellow
	Below 37	red

Mentation *Obtunded: dull/lethargic *Stuperous: decreased consciousness, but responsive to strong stimuli	Bright/ alert	green
	Obtunded*	yellow
	Stuperous*	red
	Coma	red

Demeanour	🙂	green
	😐	yellow
	🙁	red

Cat

Respiratory rate (bpm)	>40	red
	30-40	yellow
	11-29	green
	0-10	red

Respiratory effort	Increased	red
	Normal	green
	Very shallow	yellow

Pulse rate (bpm)	240	red
	230	red
	220	red
	210	yellow
	200	green
	190	green
	180	green
	170	green
	160	yellow
	150	red
	140	red
	Lower	red

Pulse quality	Hyperdynamic	yellow
	Normal	green
	Weak	yellow
	Absent	red

Temperature (∘C)	39 or above	red
	37.5 - 38.9	green
	37 – 37.5	yellow
	Below 37	red

Mentation *Obtunded: dull/lethargic *Stuperous: decreased consciousness, but responsive to strong stimuli	Bright / alert	green
	Obtunded*	yellow
	Stuperous*	red
	Coma	red

Demeanour	🙂	green
	😐	yellow
	🙁	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	🟥
	220	🟥
	200	🟥
	190	🟥
	180	🟥
	170	🟨
	160	🟨
	150	🟩
	140	🟩
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.	130	🟩
	120	🟩
	110	🟩
	100	🟨
	90	🟥
	80	🟥
	70	🟥
	60	🟥

Urine output (ml/kg/hour)	> 4	🟥
	> 1.5	🟩
	1 – 1.5	🟨
	< 1	🟥

Oxygen saturation	95 – 100%	🟩
	90 – 94%	🟨
	90% or below	🟥

Cat

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

Urine output (ml/kg/hour)	> 4	🟥
	> 1.5	🟩
	1 – 1.5	🟨
	< 1	🟥

Oxygen saturation	95 – 100%	🟩
	90 – 94%	🟨
	90% or below	🟥

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

Total amber score		Total amber score	
Total red 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.