



Respiratory Distress for Veterinary Technicians

micro drip study guide

version 1

Instructor: Amy Newfield, MS, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Be advised that this document is intended to enhance your learning experience. It is created primarily from an audio transcription of the instructor's lecture. Therefore it is NOT designed to meet the standard of a textbook or proceedings. Please excuse minor grammar and typographical issues. You are welcome to print and use it for notetaking and strengthening your learning.

All rights reserved. Veterinary Information Network, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Mucous Membranes

- **One of the easiest parameters to monitor**

- **Not 100% accurate**

- **Lighting**
- **Anemia**
- **Icterus**



- **Any presence of cyanosis is life-threatening**



Mucous membrane color. So this is one of the easiest parameters to monitor, though my eyes and what you see, are two totally different things, right? And so I don't know if you guys remember, it's probably like at least five or six years ago, there was going this meme around where, is it a blue dress? Is it a black dress? Is it a gold dress? And everybody was seeing a different variety of colors. We were all arguing about it on social media.

The reality is it's like, Yes, my vision and what I see might be slightly different than yours. It's not 100% accurate for that reason. So lighting might trip you up, anemia, or the color icterus. So yellow, for example. Any presence of cyanosis is hands down life-threatening.

So we take a look at this dog here, very cyanotic. That's pretty conclusive that we're not breathing too well, right? But just so you know, if the animal is icterus, jaundice, yellow in any sort of color, or anemic, that will trump the color blue. So if you have an anemic animal, they're just going to probably look pale white. You won't be able to appreciate the cyanosis, the blue color, because the white will trump it. And then certainly, lighting. It might be a little bit too visually difficult to see that color.