

UDDER EXAMINATION

- ❖ A detailed examination of the udder should be performed.
- ❖ This includes conducting udder evaluations as well as milk tests (CMT, Strip cup).
- ❖ Mastitis can be subclinical or clinical.

1) Inspection

Looks at the:

- **Size**; enlarged, smaller than average/larger than average, abnormal.
- **Shape**; pendulous, correct number of teats (presence of extra teats, absence of teats).
- **Symmetry**; even quarters, symmetrical, unilateral swelling.
- **Lesions**; lumps, bumps, lacerations, abscesses, signs of inflammation (heat, pain, redness and swelling).

2) Palpation

Looks at the:

- **Skin**; cold and blue black udder (gangrenous mastitis), warm and redness of udder (active inflammation).
- **Lymph nodes**; enlarged (supramammary lymph node), palpable.
- **Tissue**; necrotic, sloughing.
- **Teat**; laceration, number (supernumerary) , conformity, symmetry, orifice (restricted or not), scar formation.
- **Sinus**; open/closed.

3) Secretion

- **CMT (California Mastitis Test)**; positive or negative, evaluate milk from each quarter
- **Appearance** (Use a strip cup for organoleptic test); colour changes (white to yellow, brown or blood-tinged), texture (thick, may or may not have clumps or clots, watery or not).
- **Smell**; foul.
- **Chemistry**; SCC (Somatic Cell Count), Neutrophil levels (Neutropenia or neutrophilia).
- **Microbiology**; samples for bacterial culture (*Staphylococcus aureus*)