

What **exactly** is your cat's veterinarian looking for when they poke and prod your cat during a visit, and why is this so important?

Here's a glimpse of what they're checking out and why.

(One thing you won't see on this list is the passive exam that is done during their physical exam that evaluates your cat's behavioral and neurological responses.)

Ears are checked for signs of infection such as pain, tenderness, redness, swelling, abnormal odor and any discharge.

Eyes are checked for abnormal sensitivities that could be related to disease, tears, and infection, such as discharge, irritation, discoloration, abnormal movement or reaction to light.

The heart and lungs are checked for irregular beats and rhythms, wheezing and other abnormal sounds.

The abdomen is checked for irregularities in the size, shape, thickness, and texture of the liver, spleen, kidneys, intestines, and bladder.

The mouth and teeth are checked for signs of periodontal disease and gingivitis.

Lymph nodes and glands are checked for abnormalities in size, shape, and texture that often occur with the onset of disease or infection.

The skin and coat are checked for dehydration, hair loss, mats, rashes, growths, and evidence of parasites.

The legs and joints are checked for normal range of motion, signs of discomfort, tenderness, and other abnormalities.

