

Assessment Guidelines

This document provides standardized guidelines for collecting **photos and videos of your pet's posture, movement, and daily activities.**

These materials are used for **observational review only**. They do not constitute veterinary diagnosis, medical assessment, or confirmation of injury or disease. The goal is to document how your pet is using their body in everyday contexts so that movement patterns, postural strategies, and functional behaviors can be reviewed in a structured and consistent way.

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Static Observations (Posture)



Please provide clear photos of your pet in the following positions:

- Stand
- Sit
- Down

Photo Guidelines

- Capture views from:
 - Front
 - Rear
 - Left side
 - Right side
- Set your camera **at the level of your pet's body**, not angled from above.
- Ensure your pet's **entire body is visible and centered** in the frame.
- Photograph your pet in a **natural, unposed posture**:
 - No deliberate stacking or positioning
 - No props or platforms (unless needed)
 - No harness or equipment
 - On a flat, non-slip surface
- You may record a short video and screenshot still frames if this is easier.
- Use **adequate lighting** and a **clutter-free background** so body alignment is clearly visible.

Dynamic Observations (Movement)

You may choose **one of the following two options** (Gait Analysis or Movement Assessment) depending on space and your pet's abilities.

Option 1 – Gait Analysis (Recommended)

Example video: [Missy Gait Analysis](#)

Please send short videos of your pet moving at different speeds, with views from:

- Front
- Rear
- Left side
- Right side

Suggested speeds:

- Slow (walking)
- Moderate (trotting)
- Optional: fast running (canter/gallop) if safe and space available

Filming Guidelines

- Use a **flat, stable, non-slip surface** with good traction.
- Avoid hills, sand, snow, ice, wet grass, hardwood, or tile.
- Equipment:
 - Ideally your pet should be **off-leash** or on a **flat collar with a loose leash**.
 - If possible, avoid harnesses, head halters, retractable leashes, or tools that may influence body posture or head position.
- Handling:
 - Avoid luring with food in your hand.
 - If needed, you may place a small dish at each end of the path to encourage straight-line movement.
- Camera:
 - Film in **landscape (horizontal)**.
 - Aim for **4–10 consecutive strides** per clip.
 - The camera should remain **stationary** and positioned at your pet's body height.
 - Your pet should remain **centered in the frame**.
- Keep each video under **5 minutes**.



Option 2 – Movement Assessment (Optional)

Please provide short clips of your pet performing any of the following:

- Circle or spin (both directions)
- Sit to stand
- Down to stand
- Shake a paw (both sides)
- Any tricks they may know!
- Any trained movements or tricks your pet knows/is comfortable performing

*These movements are used to observe **weight shifting, coordination, and transitional movement patterns.***

Filming Guidelines

- Capture views from:
 - Front
 - At least one side
- Use a **non-slip surface**.
- Film in landscape orientation.
- Aim for **approximately 5 repetitions** of each movement.
- Ensure the pet's **full body is visible**.
- Keep the camera **stationary and level with the pet**.
- Trim videos to **under 5 minutes**.



Activities of Daily Living (Optional)

Photos or videos of your pet's everyday activities can provide useful **contextual information** about how they move and interact with their environment.

Helpful activities to document include:

- Getting up from rest
- Lying down
- Navigating stairs
- Getting on and off furniture
- Eating and drinking
- Walking through the home
- Toileting postures (urinating & defecating)

These clips should reflect your pet's **typical, natural behavior**, without coaching or staging.

Professional Scope Statement

All materials collected through these guidelines are used for **observational, educational, and movement-based review only**. This process does not replace veterinary assessment and does not provide medical diagnosis or treatment. Any health concerns should always be discussed directly with a licensed veterinarian.

