

Hypovolemia refers to a reduction in intravascular volume, which affects six key PE parameters. These “perfusion parameters” are: mentation, heart rate, pulse quality, mucous membrane color, capillary refill time, and extremity temperature (Table 1).

Table 1:

Physical examination findings during shock states			
PE finding	Compensated shock	Acute decompensated shock	Late decompensated shock
Rectal Temperature	Dogs: ↓ (98-99°F) Cats: ↓ (<97°F)	Dogs: ↓↓ (96-98°F) Cats: ↓↓ (<95°F)	Dogs: ↓↓↓ (<96°F) Cats: ↓↓↓ (<90°F)
Heart rate	Dogs: ↑↑ (> 160-180 bpm) Cats: ↑↑↑ (>240) or ↓ (150-170 bpm)	Dogs: ↑ (>150 bpm) Cats: ↑↑ (>200) or ↓↓ (120-140 bpm)	Dogs: normal to ↓ (<140 bpm) Cats: ↑ (>180 bpm) or ↓↓↓ (<120 bpm)
Mentation	QAR, mildly dull	Obtunded	Obtunded to stuporous
Mucous membrane color	Pale or hyperemic	Pale	Pale to muddy
Capillary refill time	<1 second	<2 seconds	≥ 2 seconds