**PANTING**

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**INVESTIGATION**

True panting:
- Extremely rapid rate
- Lips pulled back throughout inspiration; nares quivering during expiration
- Move freely, no positional restrictions
- Tongue often protruded

May be normal:
- With exertion, stress, heat, excitement

**DIFFERENTIAL**

- Increased body temperature
- Obese, overweight
- Endocrine disease
- Pain
- CNS disease
- Behavioral issue (eg, anxiety)

**INVESTIGATION**

- Further diagnostics (eg, imaging) for source of pain
- Compatible clinical signs?
- Routine database
- UCCR, LDDS, ACTH stimulation
- Abdominal ultrasound

**RESULTS**

- Normal environmental temperature
- Increased environmental temperature
- Fever

**TREATMENT**

- Institute cooling
- Institute weight-loss program
- Avoid excess exertion, heat
- Analgesic trial
- Institute behavioral modification
- Anxiolytic therapy

**DIFFERENTIAL**

- Hyperadrenocorticism
- Hyperthyroidism
- Pheochromocytoma

**INVESTIGATION**

- Routine database
- Neurologic examination
- MR/CT
- CSF tap
- Compatible signs?
- Routine database
- Abdominal ultrasound/CT
- Urine metanephrine testing
- Inhibin level
- Blood pressure measurement

**RESULTS**

- CNS disease affecting respiratory center
- Post-ictal
- Normal environmental temperature
- Fever
- Increased environmental temperature

* Differentials here are more relevant to dogs, but information pertinent to cats (eg, young cat cardiorespiratory, hyperthyroid) is relevant where necessary.
** If a young cat is presented with panting, cardiorespiratory disease must be ruled out.
Reference