

Anorexia in the Rabbit



Medical History

- Signalment
- Presenting clinical signs
- Progression / systems affected
- Date when last normal
- Medical & surgical history
- Response to any previous therapy

Environmental History

- Complete diet history, including recent changes
- Potential toxin exposure
- Exposure to other pets / illness in companions
- History of social structure, especially recent changes
- Changes in environment, including bedding, toys, visitors, disruptions



Complete Physical Examination

Abdominal

- Pain upon palpation
- Presence of masses, excessive fluid, food, and/or gas*

Cardiovascular

- Murmur, arrhythmia, rate

Dermatologic

- Hair loss, generalized or under eyes or chin, suggesting epiphora or ptyalism
- Evidence of ectoparasites
- Pododermatitis

Ears/Ear Canal/Eyes

- Palpate base of ears
- Evaluate lens/anterior chamber
- Note evidence of exophthalmia or epiphora

Gastrointestinal

- Willingness to eat
- Amount/character of stool*

Mentation

- General activity level
- Interest in environment*

Musculoskeletal

- Reluctance to move
- Lameness/discomfort
- Swelling

Neurologic

- Central and/or peripheral nerve deficit

Oral Cavity

- Examine incisors
- Perform cursory otoscopic examination of oral cavity
- Palpate jaw

Respiratory

- Increased rate of effort
- Auscultation
- Evidence of nasal discharge*

Urogenital

- Pain upon palpation of the bladder
- Character of urine

* Repeat these examinations every 3 to 4 hours while anorexia persists in the hospitalized patient

*** Did history or physical examination reveal evidence of disease in a specific body system or suggest environmental stress as a potential cause of anorexia?**

Yes

No



Diagnostic tests specific to body system:

- *Oral cavity:* Complete evaluation of oral cavity in anesthetized patient
- *Abdominal:* Radiography
- *Musculoskeletal:* Radiography of spine & limbs
- *Eyes (exophthalmos):* Radiography



Initial diagnostic tests:

- Complete blood count with blood smear
- Serum biochemical profile
- Abdominal radiography
- Complete evaluation of oral cavity in anesthetized patient
- Urinalysis

Yes

*** Did diagnostic tests reveal evidence of specific disease?**

No



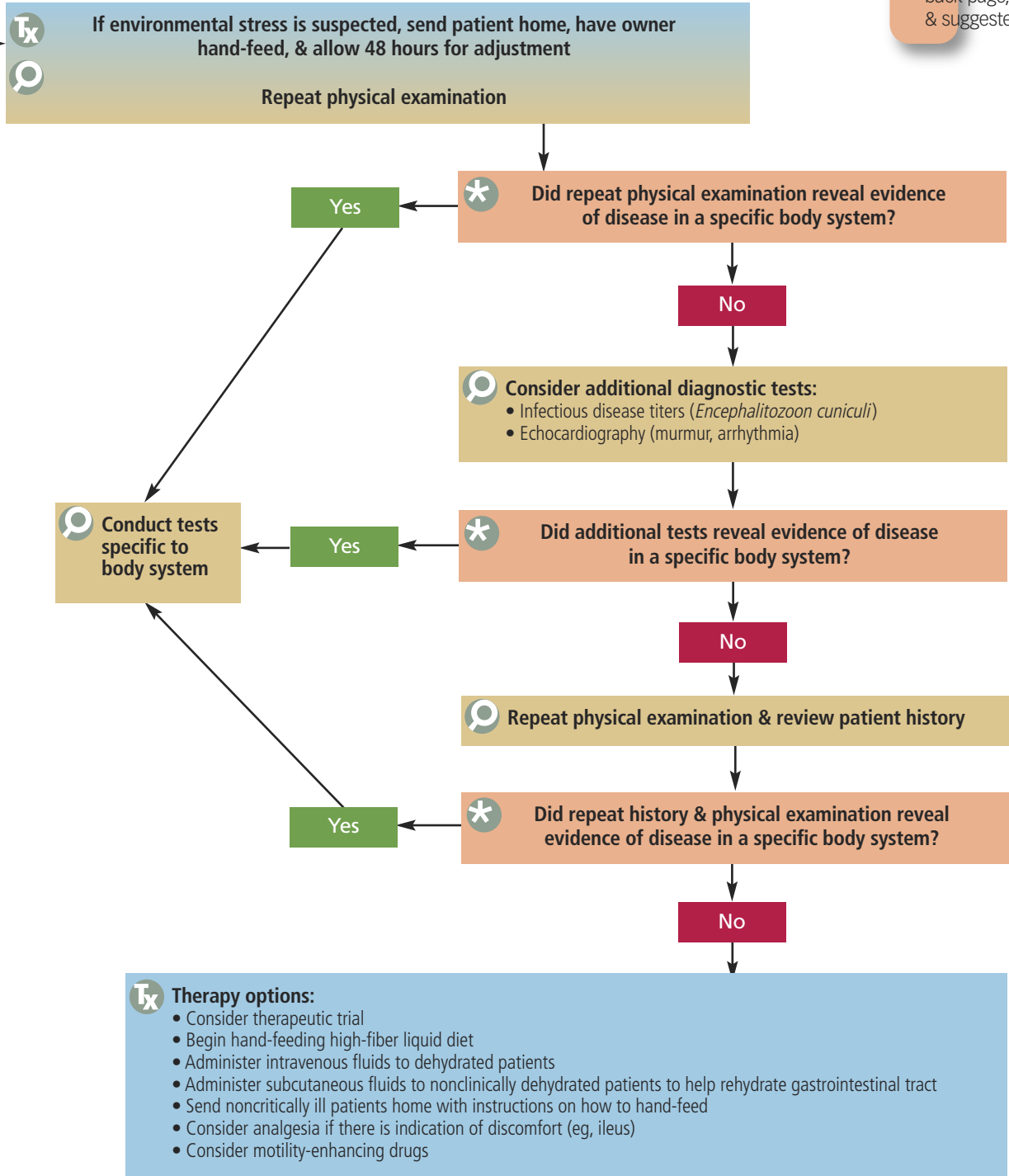
Initiate treatment for disease

or



Conduct further diagnostic testing specific to body system

See Aids & Resources,
 back page, for references
 & suggested reading.



Investigation
 Treatment
 Result

This algorithm can be downloaded and printed for use in your clinic at cliniciansbrief.com.