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SPO2 Tips & Tricks

SPO2 Explained

- **Waveform:** A clean regular pleth matching the pulse tells you the reading is real & correct. A messy wave form means your just reading noise, not O2 Saturation.
- **Pulse Match:** The Heart Rate on the SPO2 must match the Patients Pulse. If they don't line up, there may be an issue with the Probe placement, spring tension, or its faulty.
- **Probe Placement:** Warm, Pink, Hairless areas give the best results. Tongue, Lip, Ear, Prepuce, Volva & Toe Webbing. Cold & vasoconstrictive tissue do not work. (You may need to shave the area slightly to make a good contact.)
- **Perfusion:** Poor Perfusion = rubbish readings. If the patient is Cold, Hypertensive, the monitor will struggle.
- **Movement:** Chewing, Shivering or twitching will make the reading unreliable & wrong.
- **Observation:** If the monitor says 87%, but the mucus membranes are pink & the ETCO2 is normal, trust the patient, not the number.

The best SPO2 Reading is a combination of Waveform + Good Pulse & basic Clinical Observation

Clip Types



General Veterinary Clips



DYS Clips



Tip Clip (Ear Clip) & Transflectance