

TABLE 3**Estimated Interstitial Dehydration (%) Based on Physical Examination Findings^a**

Estimated % Dehydration	Physical Examination Finding
<5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not detectable
5–6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some change in skin turgor
6–8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mild decreased skin turgor• Dry mucous membranes*
8–10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obvious decreased skin turgor• Retracted globes within orbits
10–12%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persistent skin tent due to complete loss of skin elasticity• Dull corneas**• Evidence of hypovolemia
>12%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hypovolemic shock• Death

Note: There is substantial clinical variation in the correlation between clinical signs and degree of dehydration, so this is an estimate only.

^a Reprinted from Silverstein DC and Hopper K, eds., *Small Animal Critical Care Medicine*, 3rd ed., Rudloff, E, Assessment of hydration, p. 1054-58, Elsevier (2022), with permission from Elsevier.

*Xerostomia can be present in AKI and CKD patients without dehydration.

**Retracted globes may also be present.

The 2024 Fluid Therapy Guidelines for Dogs and Cats are available at aaha.org/fluid-therapy.

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