



What Is An Emergency

If your pet exhibits any abnormal activity or behaviour, a veterinary consultation is a good idea. The following symptoms are definitely emergencies and require immediate medical attention.

Emergency Symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing, blue tongue or raspy breath sounds
- Swollen or distended abdomen, with or without productive vomiting
- Inability to urinate or defecate, especially if straining. (Cats may repeatedly go to the litter box, lick at the genital area, and/or vocalise)
- Ingestion of toxin, including but not limited to: chocolate, rodenticides (mouse and rat bait), garden pest control products (snail baits), prescription, over the counter or illegal drugs, and household cleaners.
- Trauma such as being hit by a car, a fall from a height or blunt force, even if the animal is NOT showing any ill effects!
- Collapse/inability to stand or walk
- Loss of balance or consciousness, convulsions or seizure activity
- Penetrating wound, such as bite wounds (dog or cat), gunshot or stab wounds.
- Bleeding that does not stop. (Apply pressure with a clean cloth while on your way)
- Vomiting or diarrhoea with blood
- Heatstroke: heavy panting, weakness on a warm day
- Exposure to snakes or ticks

Contacting us in an emergency:

When faced with a veterinary emergency, it is a good idea to telephone ahead with the animal's breed and approximate size, present symptoms and any other health problems. This allows the nurses and vets to be prepared and treat your animal accordingly on arrival without delay.

Please note: patients are seen in order of urgency, not order of arrival. At times, there may be a wait before a veterinarian is available. We appreciate your patience whilst we attend to patients with immediately life-threatening problems.

"caring for the pets of ipswich since 1967"

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