



Is It an Emergency?

This is a quick guide to help you decide if your pet needs immediate care. **However, if YOU think it's urgent, go to a veterinarian immediately!** Any pet showing these signs should see a vet right away. Don't wait!

Bleeding

- A puncture wound that's bleeding, especially over the chest or abdomen
- A wound that's still bleeding after holding pressure on it for 5 min
- Bleeding that soaks a bandage
- Bleeding from the mouth, an ear, vulva, prepuce, or anus without an obvious reason

Breathing

- Your pet is gasping for breath
- Your pet is breathing with its neck stretched forward
- Your pet is breathing with its mouth open (not normal panting)
- Your pet is a cat who is panting for no obvious reason such as heavy exercise
- Choking
- Your pet's tongue or mouth looks blue or grey
- Your pet is breathing very shallowly (not taking in much air)

Bloated Look (Dogs)

- Your dog's belly looks distended or bloated
- Your dog is retching but nothing comes up
- Your dog is restless & pacing along with a bloated look
- Your dog is salivating so much it may appear to be vomit but it's all "foam"

Constipation

- Your pet is a male cat and is straining in the litter box (it can be a urinary blockage instead of constipation)

Diarrhea

- Your pet has explosive diarrhea that occurs several times within an hour or two

Eye

- An eye is bulging
- An eye is very red
- An eye is sticking out of its socket

Hives

- Only if your pet is also having any trouble breathing

Poison

- Your pet has eaten antifreeze
- Your pet has eaten mouse or rat poison (take the container with you or know the brand name)
- Call a veterinary poison control center to learn if other poisons are emergencies

Seizure

- Your pet has a seizure that lasts more than 2 minutes or has 3 within 24 hours or less
- Your pet has a seizure that starts right after another one ends

Urination

- Your pet is male and straining to urinate (or straining in the litter box) and not producing any or small amounts of urine

Emergency Clinic

U of I Emergency Clinic.....217-333-5300

Vomiting

- Your pet vomits several times within an hour

Wounds

- Any puncture wound especially a bite from another animal

Just in Case

You may go to the emergency clinic and find out that it wasn't as serious as you thought. That's the good news! It's always better to error on the side of seeking emergency care when it's not needed instead of waiting and putting your pet in real danger.

