

Spotting common pet emergencies

SIGNS THAT YOUR PET NEEDS EMERGENCY CARE

Any ONE of these behaviors is an indication that your pet needs emergency care:

TROUBLE WALKING

If your pet has difficulty walking, it's an emergency. Of the many underlying reasons – that include conditions of the brain and spine, heart disease, bone fractures, muscle injuries and chronic disease – ALL require immediate medical attention.

CRYING IN THE LITTER BOX

A cat crying in the litter box is ALWAYS a sign of an emergency. Male cats can “block” in their urinary tract preventing them from passing urine. If not treated promptly, cats with this serious problem will die within 24 to 72 hours.

DIFFICULTY BREATHING

Get to the emergency hospital if your pet is panting or breathing with an open mouth while at rest. There are many causes – infection, heart disease, asthma and pain – all reasons to seek immediate attention.

VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA

Vomiting and/or diarrhea are signs of serious illness, including diseases of the liver, kidney, pancreas, stomach or intestines. They can also mean that your pet has ingested potentially-fatal toxins or some form of foreign object.

RUNNY, BLINKING EYES

Most eye problems are painful and can lead to serious eye damage or blindness. If your pet's eyes show discharge, excessive blinking, squinting, cloudiness, bulging or appear sunken, or if your pet is pawing or rubbing his or her eyes, seek emergency care.

How to spot common pet emergencies

Does your pet's injury or illness need immediate treatment or can you wait to see your family veterinarian? Some pets, like rabbits, mask their symptoms until it may be too late. Other pets may show signs of distress, however it may be difficult to recognize the seriousness of their symptoms.



GET A FASTER DIAGNOSIS - AND SAVE MONEY - IN THE ER

The more information the emergency veterinarian has, the easier it will be to diagnose your pet's emergency. Try to take:

- ✓ Copies of your pet's medical records.
- ✓ Labels/packages from anything your pet might have ingested.
- ✓ List / containers of medications your pet is taking (including nutritional supplements and over-the-counter medications).
- ✓ Pet insurance information (if you have a policy).

Even better, register for the **Animal ER Center Pet Emergency Treatment System (PETS)**! PETS places your pet's medical history on file long before you need it! Your **Animal ER Center** critical care veterinarian can review information on your pet's prior treatment and care. This saves time and potentially money by not having to repeat unnecessary tests and procedures. **Register YOUR pets for PETS today (IT'S FREE!).** Each pet also gets a **PETS collar tag**. Go to animalERcenter.com or call **248-960-7200** for more information.



Fights, accidents and trauma

Even if your pet seems fine after experiencing some type of trauma, there may still be serious internal injury. “Not acting right” can be the first sign of serious injury. Get your pet to the nearest emergency hospital if you spot:

- Bite wounds. Even small wounds can become dangerously infected if not promptly treated.
- Cuts, bites and lacerations. If left untreated, they may not heal.
- Weakness, difficulty breathing, swelling or lameness.



We are here when you need us most.





HOUSEHOLD ITEMS DANGEROUS TO PETS

Seizures

Seeing your pet experience a seizure can be scary. Often your pet will become unresponsive, may lose control of bowels/bladder and thrash violently. If your pet is having a seizure, move furniture and other objects that could cause injury. Keep hands away from your pet's mouth to avoid getting bitten. All first-time seizures should be seen as soon as possible. Prolonged seizures can cause multi-organ damage.

Act quickly if you have an "exotic" pet

Birds, rabbits, hamsters, lizards - any pet that isn't a dog or cat - is considered "exotic." Exotic pets mask their illness and are often critically ill by the time you realize they are sick. If you have an exotic pet that is showing signs of illness, seek emergency care immediately. Locate an emergency veterinarian **experienced in caring for exotic pets** such as those at **Animal ER Center**.

All households contain products that can be fatal to pets. Prevent emergencies by keeping these items locked up and out of reach.

- **Chocolate.** Even small amounts can be toxic for all pets.
- **Medication.** Any (human or pet) medication not prescribed for your pet can be dangerous in any amount.
- **Lilies.** Simply licking part of a lily plant can kill a cat.
- **Garbage or table scraps.** Eating rotten or old foods can cause a painful and sometimes life-threatening condition called pancreatitis.
- **Raisins and grapes.** Even ONE can be toxic to dogs.
- **Products containing Xylitol.** This artificial sweetener, in products such as sugarless gum, is extremely dangerous to dogs.
- **Strings, thread, rubber bands and hair "scrunchies."** All of these make attractive toys to cats and can cause obstruction if swallowed.
- **Inappropriate toys, rawhides and clothing.** All of these items can cause obstruction in dogs that like to chew.



➤ **Melo**, a 1 ½ year-old **Cockapoo**, survived eating a whole box of **Milk Duds** thanks to the quick thinking of **the Rising family of Fenton, MI** and fast action at **Animal ER Center**.



◀ **Heather Bryant of Walled Lake, MI** acted quickly after her dog, **Geo**, an 8-month-old **Labrador mix**, ate 20 **Advil** tablets, a pencil, a pen, a piece of fabric and some candy. The **Advil** alone could have caused kidney failure.

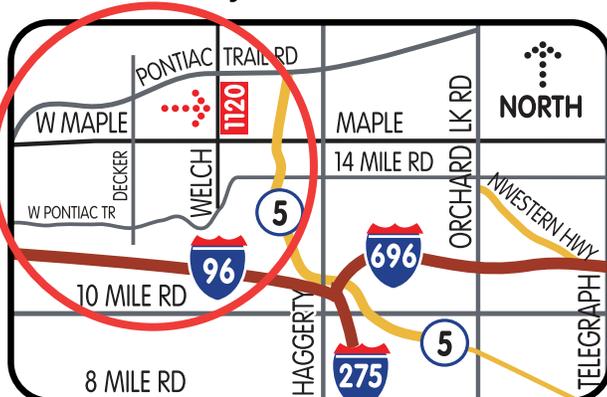
FOR THE VETERINARIAN

Ask us about CE opportunities for your hospital and staff.

Improve continuity of care for ER patients

We want to be ready for your patients that may require emergency services. When your clients join the **Animal ER Center Pet Emergency Treatment System (PETS)** their pet's records become part of our permanent files. In this way, we have their pet's history long before they ever need the ER! Find out how your clients can join this **FREE** program. Call us at **248-960-7200** or go to **animalERcenter.com**.

The Animal ER Center is centrally located in Oakland County



- State-of-the-art Imaging Center with MRI suite, CT suite and digital x-ray suite.
- Around-the-clock pet hospitalization.
- Private client hospitality lounge

1120 Welch Rd, Commerce, Michigan 48390

248-960-7200 • Fax: 248-960-7201

animalERcenter.com • info@animalERcenter.com

Open 6pm-9am every weekday and 24 hours on weekends and holidays. We accept any emergencies including exotics when your regular veterinarian is unavailable (nights, holidays, weekends).

ANIMAL ER CENTER INSIGHTS

is published by **Animal ER Center** ©2009, Animal ER Center

