

How to Recognize an Emergency

Symptoms that may be life-threatening and require emergency care:

- Trouble breathing
- Bleeding from the mouth, nose or eyes
- Extreme pain, often displayed by whining or shaking
- Unable to stand, wobbliness or dragging of limbs
- Sudden disorientation, falling over, walking into objects
- Hard and swollen abdomen
- Seizures (loss of consciousness, paddling of limbs)
- Ingestion of poisons or intoxicants
- Collapse, loss of consciousness or significant lethargy (dullness)
- Trauma
- Straining to urinate or inability to pass urine
- Nonproductive retching or multiple episodes of vomiting
- Eye injuries
- Difficult labor
- Wounds that require veterinary care:
 - Animal bites, however small, because they become infected quickly and need antibiotics
 - Skin that has been torn away from the flesh below, usually occurring in dog fights and collisions with bushes
 - Wound with a large object lodged in it such as broken glass or nail
 - Wounds caused by car accident or other trauma
 - Injuries around the eyes, head or that lead to breathing difficulties