



Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners Urgent and Emergent Procedures

Below is a list of example procedures - this list is not meant to be all-inclusive, simply demonstrative. **Ultimately, the decision needs to be left up to the discretion of the veterinarian as to what qualifies as emergent or urgent veterinary care needs.**

Examples of EMERGENCY CONDITIONS that require IMMEDIATE attention -

- Severe bleeding or bleeding that doesn't stop within five minutes
- Choking, difficulty breathing or nonstop coughing and gagging, nonstop drooling
- Bleeding from nose, mouth, rectum, coughing up blood, or blood in urine
- Inability to urinate or pass feces (stool), or obvious pain associated with urinating or passing stool
- Injuries to your pet's eye(s)
- You suspect or know your pet has eaten something poisonous (such as antifreeze, xylitol, chocolate, rodent poison, etc.)
- Seizures or staggering, or both
- Fractured bones, severe lameness or inability to move leg(s)
- Obvious signs of pain or extreme anxiety
- Heat stress or heatstroke
- Severe vomiting or diarrhea – more than two episodes in a 24-hour period, or either of these combined with obvious illness or any of the other problems listed here
- Refusal to drink for 24 hours or more
- Unconsciousness
- Swelling to muzzle, eyes, face or neck
- Panting that is inappropriate for temperature/activities
- Hit by car or other trauma

Examples of URGENT CONDITIONS that require care as soon as possible:

- Skin wounds and infections. Itching that lasts more than 24 hours.
- Ear infections including but not limited to those with pus or other discharge coming from ears; chronic head shaking
- Masses that are changing rapidly in shape or size
- Changes in urination or defecation habits that last greater than 24 hours

- Changes in appetite or water consumption that lasts greater than 24 hours
- Lameness
- Significant behavioral changes
- Management of known diabetics, cushingoid, Addisonian or other endocrine-related diseases