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