**Everett Animal Services Foster Medical Issues**

EAS animals in foster care have usually been placed because they are too young and/or they need time to recover from illness or injury.  These health issues make fosters more susceptible to other diseases and conditions than the average pet; also, since they have fewer health “reserves”, they tend to be more severely affected.  This is even truer for the very young:  conditions left untreated can be deadly.  It is therefore essential that any issues are reported to the EAS medical team right away.

Listed below are different problems and timeframes for reporting them for both cats and dogs.  A foster with multiple symptoms *should be reported right away.*

**Little to No Appetite**

* 4 months or older: 24 hours
* 2-4 months: 12 hours
* less than 2 months: 6 hours
* newborns: 3 hours

**Soft Stool or no stool**

This can range from soft but formed, to “cow patty”, to liquid squirts. If the animal has just had a diet change in the last 1-2 days, wait another 24 hours before reporting, *as long as* *there are no other symptoms*.

* 3 months or older: 24 hours.
* newborn-3 months: 12 hours

\*To help avoid the problem, feed *only* foods specifically made for that species and age group or as otherwise instructed by EAS; **absolutely no milk, no people food**, etc.

\*\*When you report soft stool please bring in a fresh sample for analysis. The fresher the better; if collected it in the evening, put the sample in the refrigerator overnight until you can bring it in the next day.  It’s okay if there is kitty litter or a little dirt on the sample.

If the animal has not pooped in 24 hours please notify us immediately.

**Lethargy**

* 4 months or older: 12 hours if severe, 24 hours if mild
* 2-4 months: 12 hours
* newborns: 3 hours

**Sneezing, Runny Eyes and/or Coughing**

If symptoms are mild and any eye or nose discharge is clear, just continue to monitor closely.  If any of the discharge becomes white, yellow, or green, the animal becomes very congested, coughing gets worse, and/or appetite decreases, report :

* 4 months or older:  12 hours
* 2-4 months: 8 hours
* newborns:  4 hours

**(No) Change in Weight**

For small animals, use a food or bathroom scale; check weight (at least) weekly.

* Newborn-2 weeks, weigh daily, then every three days until weaned, weekly after that
* to 9 months: losing or not gaining weight, 5 days
* adult:  losing weight, 7 days

**Skin issues**

Most skin problems should be reported within 2 days.

* Hair loss. On cats & kittens, pay special attention to the ears, face, & front paws, as these are the most common sites for ringworm (fungal) lesions.
* Redness
* Itchiness
* Swelling +/- drainage – call within 24 hours
* Moist redness +/- itching or pain – call within 12 hours.

**Do not hesitate to contact us!**

**Sunday through Saturday; 8am-5pm: (425) xxx-xxxx (this is not a public number so please do not pass it on) or**

**Shelter Vet (email)**

**Program Coordinator (email)**

**Staffer (email)**

**After hours emergencies only: (425) xxx-xxxx**

    

**RETURNING YOUR FOSTERS TO THE SHELTER:**

To make an appointment to return your foster animal to the shelter, please do so online. Go to:

[(link](https://instant-scheduling.com/sch.php?kn=220872&typId=15249&step=2) to scheduling system)

If you’re fostering an animal because it is ill, on medication, recovering from an injury or has been on “illness watch” you will need to make a **Foster Care MEDICAL** appt. The dates listed are when we have vet staff in the shelter.

If you’re fostering an animal because it needed to gain weight to get big enough for spay/neuter or needs vaccinations or booster shots then you will need to make a **Foster Care BOOSTER/WEIGHT** appt.

4.19.13