

Emergency Red Flags

The following signs should be checked out by a veterinarian immediately. In some of these, immediate care is needed to save the animal's life or avoid severe suffering. In other cases, even if not immediately life-threatening, there is a much better chance of recovery if the problem is dealt with promptly.

This list is not intended to cover everything – use your judgment!

- Fever > 106.5 or temperature < 99
- Severe dehydration
- Severe lethargy/non-responsive to stimuli
- Trouble breathing
- Seizures
- Blue, very pale or brick-red gums
- Recent history of being hit by a car
- Acute severe lameness or injury with bone exposed
- Major wounds or any fresh wound requiring sutures
- Injury to the eye
- Bleeding or extensive, easy bruising
- Suddenly swollen abdomen
- Cat with possible urinary blockage (unable to urinate or straining to urinate)
- Pregnant animal in distress
- Evidence of pain, such as restlessness, vocalizing, panting, or failure to bear weight on a limb, or any condition that would be expected to be painful