



## **When Is It An Emergency?**

Most pet owners have been in a situation like this: Buster slipped on the way down the stairs and now he's walking with a limp. It's 11 o'clock at night – should you call an emergency veterinarian or are you just being a worrywart?

### **You're never wrong to call!**

If you're concerned about your pet, you should never feel embarrassed about calling a veterinarian if you are concerned. First, call us here at the Veterinary Center of Morris County at 973-887-0522. If we are not open, call Oradell Animal Hospital at 201-262-0010.

Remember, you know your pet better than anyone else. If you notice your pet behaving in a way that's unusual for her, or if something just doesn't seem right, you may have picked up on a subtle sign of a real problem. By calling and asking a few questions over the phone, we should be able to tell you whether you should bring your pet in right away or whether you can monitor her at home. Even if you find out nothing's wrong, you'll be glad to have your mind at ease.

### **Definite Emergencies**

There are some times, however, when you won't need to call first. If you notice any of the following problems, bring your pet in immediately for emergency care.

- Your pet has experienced some kind of trauma, such as being hit by a car or a blunt object or falling more than a few feet.
- Your pet isn't breathing or you can't feel a heartbeat.
- Your pet is unconscious and won't wake up.
- Your pet is having trouble breathing or has something stuck in her throat.
- Your pet has had or is having a seizure.
- Your pet is bleeding from the eyes, nose, mouth, or there is blood in her urine or feces.
- You think your pet may have ingested something toxic, such as antifreeze, eat poison, any kind of medication that wasn't prescribed to him/her, or household cleaners.
- Your pet, particularly a male cat, is straining to urinate or is unable to urinate.
- Your pet shows signs of extreme pain, such as whining, shaking, and refusing to socialize.
- Your pet collapses or suddenly can't stand up.
- Your pet begins bumping into things or suddenly becomes disoriented.
- You can see irritation or injury to your pet's eyes, or she suddenly seems to become blind.
- Your pet's abdomen is swollen and hard to the touch, and/or he's gagging and trying to vomit.

- You see symptoms of heatstroke: unable or unwilling to move around, drooling, reddened gums, vomiting, diarrhea, mental dullness or loss of consciousness, uncoordinated movement, collapse.
- Your pet has been vomiting or has had diarrhea for more than 24 hours or is vomiting blood.
- You suspect any broken bones.
- Your pregnant dog or cat has gone more than three to four hours between delivering puppies or kittens.

**What to do if it's an emergency:**

If you notice any of the symptoms above or you suspect a serious problem, try to get directly in touch with us. Don't leave a voicemail or use the Internet or email.

If we are not available, call Oradell Animal Hospital at 201-262-0010. If you're in an unfamiliar city, use the AAHA hospital locator tool to locate an accredited hospital near you. The American Red Cross also has a pet first aid app available to help you locate a veterinarian in case of emergencies.

**Important Contact Information:**

Veterinary Center of Morris County  
973-887-0522  
33 Eagle Rock Ave  
East Hanover, NJ 07936

Oradell Animal Hospital  
201-262-0010  
580 Winters Ave  
Paramus, NJ 07652