

## WHEN IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

### Animal Emergency Referral Center

Have you ever been in a situation where Rover slips on his way down the stairs and now he walks with a limp at 11:00 at night? What do you do? Should you call your veterinarian, or just wait until morning?

Animal Emergency Referral Center encourages owners to call. If you're concerned about your pet, you should never be embarrassed about calling a veterinarian. Most veterinary hospitals provide referrals to emergency hospitals. Remember, you know your pet better than anyone else. If you notice your pet behaving in a way that's unusual, or something just isn't right, you may have picked up on a sign of a real problem. By asking a few questions over the phone, an emergency hospital should be able to tell you whether or not you should bring your pet in immediately. Even if you find out nothing's wrong, you'll be able to put your mind at ease.

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 is not breathing or you can't feel a heartbeat
- Your pet is unconscious and won't wake up
- Your pet has been vomiting or had diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- You suspect any broken bones
- Your pet is having trouble breathing or something is stuck in his throat
- Your pet is having or has had a seizure
- Your pet is bleeding from the eyes, nose, or mouth, or there is blood in his urine or feces
- You think your pet might have ingested something toxic, such as antifreeze, rat poison, any kind of medicine that wasn't prescribed to him, or household cleaners
- Your pet, particularly your male cat, is straining or 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
- Your pet bumps into things or is disoriented
- Your pet's abdomen is swollen and hard to the touch, and he/she is gagging and trying to vomit
- You see symptoms of heatstroke
- Your pregnant dog or cat has not delivered a puppy/kitten for more than three to four hours

**Animal Emergency Referral Center is a 24-hour emergency/referral hospital located in Torrance at 3511 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite A. In the event of an emergency, please contact us at (310) 325-3000.**