

# UNDERSTANDING PET EMERGENCIES: URGENT VS. EMERGENCY VS. CRITICAL CARE



As pet owners, we strive to ensure our furry friends are always healthy and happy. However, emergencies can arise unexpectedly, and knowing the difference between emergency, urgent, and critical care can make a significant difference in how we respond. This guide will help you understand the distinctions and prepare you to act swiftly and appropriately when your pet needs immediate attention.



## URGENT CARE

Urgent care is needed when your pet has a serious condition that isn't immediately life-threatening but still requires quick medical attention. Urgent care centers often handle conditions that can't wait for a regular veterinary appointment but don't necessitate an emergency room visit.

### Examples include:

- Minor cuts or wounds: While a small cut or wound might not be life-threatening, it still requires prompt care to prevent infection and ensure proper healing.
- Mild allergic reactions: Symptoms like swelling, itching, or mild respiratory issues need immediate attention to prevent escalation.
- Vomiting or diarrhea, especially when accompanied by INAPPETANCE and/or lethargy

### When to seek urgent care:

- If your pet is experiencing vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours.
- If they have a minor injury that could become infected.
- If they show signs of mild allergic reactions, such as swelling or itching.



## EMERGENCY CARE

Emergency care refers to situations that require immediate medical attention as they can become more serious and potentially life-threatening. These scenarios demand quick response but may not always involve severe symptoms. Here are some examples of pet emergencies:

### Examples include:

- Moderate injuries: Such as deep cuts, suspected fractures, or injuries from fights.
- Severe vomiting or diarrhea: When accompanied by other symptoms like lethargy or refusal to eat.
- Ingesting a non-toxic foreign object: If your pet has swallowed something that could cause an obstruction or isn't passing normally.

### When to seek emergency care:

- If your pet has a deep cut or wound that is bleeding profusely.
- If they have ingested something potentially harmful but not immediately life-threatening.
- If they exhibit severe gastrointestinal symptoms that persist beyond 24 hours.

## CRITICAL CARE

Critical care involves life-threatening situations where immediate and intensive treatment is necessary. These are often the most severe cases and require specialized veterinary intervention. Examples of critical care situations include:

### Examples include:

- Severe trauma: Such as being hit by a car or falling from a significant height.
- Poisoning: Ingesting toxic substances like antifreeze, certain human medications, or toxic plants.
- Severe allergic reactions: Anaphylactic shock with symptoms like difficulty breathing, collapse, or severe swelling.
- Cardiac or respiratory emergencies: Such as heart attacks, severe asthma attacks, or respiratory failure.

### When to seek urgent care:

- If your pet has been involved in a severe accident or sustained major injuries.
- If they have ingested a toxic substance.
- If they are having difficulty breathing, are unconscious, or are unresponsive.

## IMPORTANT contact info to share:

(Leave this info for pet caretakers when you are away)

Best contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Care Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CTVSEH EMERGENCY CARE DEPARTMENTS ARE  
AVAILABLE FOR ALL PET EMERGENCIES 24 HOURS  
A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK AT 2 LOCATIONS!**

**(512) 892-9038**

### 24 HOUR EMERGENCY CARE

#### South Austin

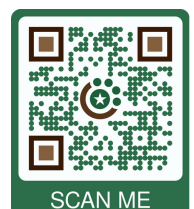
4434 Frontier Trails  
Austin, Texas 78745



SCAN ME

#### Round Rock

301 Chisholm Trail  
Round Rock, Texas 78681



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CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION OR SPEAK WITH YOUR PRIMARY CARE VETERINARIAN ABOUT SITUATIONS WHEN IMMEDIATE PROFESSIONAL CARE MAY BE REQUIRED.  
THIS ADVICE IS INTENDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE MEDICAL ADVICE.

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