

AFTER HOURS MEDICAL EMERGENCIES/CONCERNS

(During regular business hours, page a technician for emergencies, put to vs attn. for concerns)

Emergency vs. Health Concern

In the event of a medical crisis, sometimes it's hard to determine if you should send an animal to the emergency clinic. You can help make emergency care as efficient and effective as possible by knowing how to distinguish emergency, urgent and routine health concerns.

Is it an Emergency?

The initial minutes after an injury or medical crisis are often the most critical. Trust your instincts when deciding if an animal needs immediate medical attention. Symptoms that generally indicate an emergency include:

- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Sudden non-weight-bearing lameness
- Difficulty/Inability to breathe or shortness of breath
- Seizure or loss of consciousness
- Persistent vomiting (especially if non-productive and depressed)
- Swollen face/muzzle/eyes
- Sudden weakness or collapse
- Intense pain-persistent screaming in pain

Call for Help

- call DVM for advice/guidance
- call APO for transport

Remember - Don't attempt to move the victim or perform a medical procedure if you are unsure of how to do it.

Health Concern: put to vs attn.; tape a print screen to pharmacy door

If you have a situation that requires prompt medical attention but is not life-threatening, document notes fully in chameleon, put to "VS ATTN" and tape a print screen on the Pharmacy door.

Urgent care symptoms may include:

- Cough, discharge from eyes or/and nose
- abrasions and minor cuts
- Eye, ear or skin infections
- Limping
- Small amount of blood in urine