



EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE TRIAGE GUIDELINES

Below please find a guideline for cases that you are considering sending to our Emergency Service. As always, we are available 24/7 to speak directly with you, veterinarian- to-veterinarian, to clarify any questions about these guidelines or regarding any case.

Emergent cases: These patients are considered critical and should be referred as needed. As always, informing us of the referral and ensuring appropriate medical records are made available is appreciated and allows us to be prepared for your patient's arrival.

- Cardiovascular Emergencies
 - Hemoabdomen
 - Pericardial effusion
 - Congestive heart failure
 - Arrhythmias
 - Shock
 - Syncope
- Neurologic Emergencies
 - Seizures
 - Traumatic brain injury
- Surgical Emergencies
 - GDV
 - Septic abdomen
 - Large open wounds/ penetrating trauma
 - Any major trauma (vehicular trauma, large bite wounds, high-rise syndrome etc.)
 - GI obstruction
 - Pyothorax
- Gastrointestinal/Hepatobiliary
 - GI obstruction
 - Esophageal foreign body
- Metabolic/Endocrine/Hematologic
 - DKA
 - IMHA
 - Addisonian crisis
 - Severe anemia / thrombocytopenia
 - Any pet needing a transfusion
- Respiratory
 - Any respiratory distress
 - Pleural effusion
- Renal/urinary
 - AKI
 - Urinary obstruction (canine or feline)
- Toxin exposure
- Burn injury

Urgent cases: As these can vary in severity and urgency, we ask that you call and speak with one of our ER doctors / criticalists on staff. This will not only facilitate prompt and timely referral for truly emergent cases, but will also help manage client expectations appropriately to ensure that optimal patient care and client service can be provided, even during these times of reduced staffing and capacity.

- Surgical/Orthopedic
 - Lameness/trouble walking
 - Pathologic fractures
- Gastrointestinal/Hepatobiliary
 - Vomiting
 - Hematochezia
 - Icterus
 - Elevated liver enzymes (severe)
 - Not eating/decreased appetite
- Metabolic/Endocrine/Hematologic
 - Epistaxis
 - Oral bleeding
 - Fever of unknown origin
- Respiratory
 - Thoracic masses
- Pain/vocalization
- Dermatologic concerns
- Ophthalmology cases

Non-urgent cases: These patients should not be referred at this time as our limitations in resources and staff preclude being able to accommodate them through the emergency service.

- Non-bleeding abdominal masses
- Mild liver enzyme elevations
- Chronic cough
- Chronic GI disease
- Non-fracture orthopedic conditions (such as cruciate rupture)
- Ear infections

Any veterinarians with questions or concerns regarding a case are strongly encouraged to call and speak with one of our ECC staff members.

We thank you for your continued trust and partnership. Your understanding and participation in these guidelines will assist us in continuing to provide the best care to our veterinary community.

Cornell University Veterinary Specialists

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