

Signs Your Pet Needs a Vet Visit

Appetite Changes

Any change in how your pet usually eats warrants a trip to the veterinarian. Sudden increases or decreases in appetite can be a sign of various conditions. Cats in particular can quickly get very sick if they go a few days without eating adequate amounts.

Increased Drinking

If your pet is drinking an excessive amount of water, this may be a sign of a serious condition such as diabetes or kidney disease.

Difficult or Rapid Breathing

Every dog pants on a hot day or after exercise, but they should not have trouble breathing after a brief rest or a return to cool temperatures. Panting in cats should occur infrequently, if at all. If you notice your cat panting frequently or for an extended period of time, please let us know.

Vomiting or Changes in Stool

Throwing up food once or having a bout of diarrhea is not necessarily cause for alarm if the problem goes away quickly and does not become chronic. However, continual vomiting and diarrhea can indicate toxin ingestion, digestive inflammation, a blockage, serious allergy or disease.

Lack of Energy or Lethargy

Lethargy and general disinterest in more active pastimes can be a sign that your pet is ill or has a physical complaint that is hurting them.

Poor Balance or Difficulty With Regular Movement

Whenever changes to gait, movement or balance are observed in your pet, you should make an appointment right away. While a limp may be as simple as a strained tendon, balance issues and awkward motions can indicate neurological problems.

Irritated, Weeping or Red Eyes

Infection and irritants can change how your pet's eyes look. If they are red, tearing or producing excess mucus, you probably should get them checked out. Other possibilities include a scratch or other injury to the cornea.

Skin and Hair Changes

Skin rashes, itching, and hair loss could indicate bacterial infection, allergies, ringworm, or other conditions.

Wincing, Whining or Crying

All three of these actions may indicate an injury or some kind of pain your pet is experiencing. If you touch your pet and they shy away from your hand or whine, you know there is something wrong. Your pet might need x-rays and a full examination to determine the cause.

Aggressive or Unusual Behavior

Anytime your pet's behavior changes for the worse, it is an indication that something is not right. Animals can act differently when they are ill or in pain, just like people. Do not assume that a sudden increase in aggressive or restless actions are a behavioral problem. The first thing to do is to make an appointment, so we can check for illness or injury.