

# What Would You Do If Your Dog or Cat Had An Emergency?



By Ryan Gershenson, DVM  
Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (VE+CC)

*Likely “911” was the first phone number you were taught as a child and the one you are least likely to forget. While you know how to get help if you, or even a perfect stranger needs help, what do you do when your four-legged family member has an emergency?*

## BE PREPARED!

Knowing the phone number and location of your local veterinary emergency hospital should not be a task left for when your pet is in crisis. Ask your local veterinarian, go on Google or pick up the yellow pages and find your local veterinary emergency and critical care hospital. Keep in mind that your local veterinarian may be the perfect place to take your pet during their normal business hours, as they know your pet and have all of his or her medical records. If your pet is in crisis, make sure you call your regular veterinarian to ensure they are equipped to handle your pet's current problem. It is important to know that not all emergency hospitals are open 24 hours per day. Many are open only on weekends or in the evening. Knowing the hours of your regular veterinarian and your local emergency hospital is important.

## WHAT CONSTITUTES A PET EMERGENCY?

An emergency can be very obvious, such as a pet being hit by a car, but other emergencies are much less specific, such as a pet just not acting normally. If you are concerned your pet may be having an emergency, you should contact your primary care veterinarian or an emergency hospital. If you are unsure if the problem could be serious, it is never wrong to have your pet examined.



## WHAT TO EXPECT?

All pets seen on emergency should have a thorough history taken and a complete physical exam. Most pets seen in the emergency room are treated as out-patients, meaning they are sent home without having to stay in the hospital. Some pets are sick or injured where they need to be admitted to the hospital for monitoring, supportive care and occasionally emergency surgery.

## WHO IS VE+CC?

Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (VE+CC) is Southern Nevada's only 24 hour emergency and critical care hospital. Our state of the art facility is continuously staffed with skilled emergency veterinarians and veterinarians who have specialized training in critical care (completed residencies). Because we are fully staffed 24/7, we are able to hospitalize patients for multiple days in our critical care unit. In addition to seeing pets brought in by their owners, we also assist primary care veterinarians by accepting patients requiring our intense level of speciality care. While in the hospital your pet has access to veterinary surgeons, internists, cardiologists, ophthalmologists, oncologists and rehabilitation specialists, should your pet's condition require. We work closely with your primary care veterinarian, providing them with updates, records and test results.



## THE MESSAGE:

Whether you are at home or traveling with your pet, have the number for an emergency hospital programmed in your phone and readily available. This will help save time when minutes matter!