

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN



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What Qualifies As An Emergency?

Many diseases can have similar signs, but vary in severity. The list below of symptoms or conditions could typically be associated with potentially life-threatening, and below that, serious, though possibly non-life threatening, conditions. Call to speak with a member of our team if you need advice.

If you are bringing your pet in for an appointment, always ensure your pet has a leash and collar, or is safely secured in a pet carrier. If your pet has eaten something, bring the wrapper or any leftovers with you to the ER.

Symptoms of a Life-threatening Emergency Include:

- **Severe Bleeding:** Bleeding that doesn't stop within five minutes, profuse bleeding from nose, mouth, rectum, coughing up blood, or blood in urine.
- **Unconsciousness:** Collapse or coma.
- **Breathing Issues:** Choking, difficulty breathing, extreme and non-stop coughing or gagging.
- **Bloating, Retching or Un-productive Vomiting:** Especially if the stomach or abdomen looks bloated.
- **Feces or Urine Related:** Inability to urinate or pass feces (stool), or obvious pain associated with urinating or passing stool, especially in male cats.
- **Injuries to your Pet's Eye(s):** painful eyes with squinting, pupils that appear larger or smaller than usual, protruding eyeball.
- **Poisons/Toxins/Venom:** You suspect or know your pet has eaten or encountered something poisonous. Highly toxic examples include: an-



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What Qualifies As An Emergency?

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tifreeze, xylitol, chocolate, rodent poison, snake bites, scorpion bites, toad poisoning.

◆ If you suspect poisonous plant contact, see the ASPCA Toxic and Non-Toxic Plants website: <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/dogs-plant-list>



◆ Exposure to any chemicals/toxins – contact Animal Poison Control, (888) 426-4435.

- **Trauma:** Severe trauma, fractured bones, or inability to move leg(s), paralysis.
- **Heat/Cold Exposure:** Frostbite or exposure to cold, heat exhaustion or heatstroke.
- **Seizures:** Clusters of seizures within a 24-hour period or a seizure that does not stop after several minutes.
- **Other Potentially Dire Emergencies:** Prolonged labor or difficulty giving birth, Electric shock, Refusal to drink for 24 hours or more.

Signs Associated with Potentially Serious Conditions that Warrant an ER Visit:

- Increased rate and/or effort in breathing
- Shallow or delayed breathing – gasping
- Bleeding & open wounds
- Changes to oral gum color (should be pink)
- Distended or bloated belly
- Persistent vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Weakness

- Changes to alertness
- Convulsion/seizure
- Loss of balance
- Trembling/shaking
- Fall from a height
- Dog or cat fights
- Bites from wildlife
- Sudden deterioration of chronic illness
- Eating suspected poisonous plant – for more information see the ASPCA Poison Plant page.
- Exposure to any chemicals/toxins – contact Animal Poison Control, (888) 426-4435.
- Eye discomfort, severe itching, hives, facial swelling
- Straining or unable to urinate or have a bowel movement
- Difficulty or unusual delay in delivering kittens or puppies
- Exposure to extreme temperatures
- Pain, discomfort or acute lameness
- Trauma

Determining if your pet has an emergency can be challenging. Our staff is here to advise you in decid-



ing if your pet needs emergency care. Call us at 916-984-0990.

If there is any doubt, please come in, our staff will take a look at your pet to determine if your pet needs to see a veterinarian. Ultimately the decision to be seen should be made by the family. We may need to refer you to an emergency clinic for the best treatment.

Dogs Stung by a Bee? Here's How to Treat It

Spring is springing forth all over the country. Flowers, grasses, and trees are blooming, and the pollinators are out in force. This is great news for plants, and less great news for our pets. Dogs are more prone to being stung by insects than we are,



given that they aren't always aware that some of the buzzing, flying insects they love to chase can hurt!

The most likely sting suspects are the Hymenoptera species, which include bees, wasps, hornets, and fire ants. Emergency veterinarians often treat dogs who suffer bee and wasp stings, with reactions ranging from very mild localized swelling and pain to anaphylactic shock. These symptoms are sometimes caused by a direct sting to the muzzle or paw, but in some cases, they occurred when a dog ingested a bee! So, what is normal and what is not when this happens?

The typical dog bee stinging event leaves the dog with a single sting on the muzzle or foot. This is because of dogs' horizontal, four-footed orientation and their innate curiosity. The feet often find the insects when running through the grass, and the curious muzzle follows.

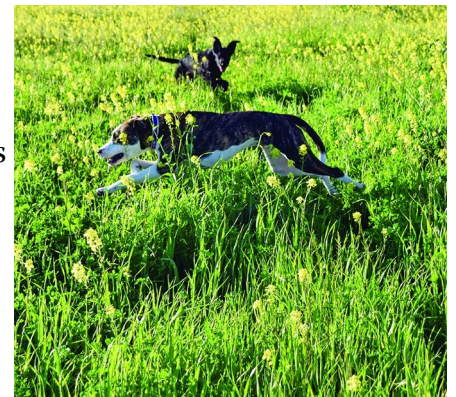
What to Do If Your Dog Gets Stung

In the case of most stings, the pet will have mild redness and swelling at the site. Your dog may suddenly limp and/or favor a paw, or have a red, swollen spot on the face. In some cases, a stinger can still be found in the wound. This is extremely difficult to find without a still, calm dog and a magnifying glass. In some cases, removal of a stinger must be done at a veterinary office. You

can try to find and remove it at home, but it may not be possible.

Initial treatment for a mild sting or bite of can consist of rest and a cold compress to relieve swelling and pain. It is not recommended that you administer over-the-counter medications; they are generally not safe for dogs. (If you are concerned that your dog is in significant pain, contact your veterinarian to discuss a pain-management strategy.)

Hives, wheals, and welts are a moderate reaction to stings. Just like we humans, dogs who have been stung can break out in unsightly hives. These are usually very itchy and uncomfortable. The first sign often noticed is the dog rubbing along furniture or scratching at the face and eyes. The hives may manifest as bright red streaks or lumps all over the body or be confined to a single place.



Mild Bee Sting Reactions in Dogs

As long as there is no accompanying vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, or collapse, this can be managed with oral antihistamines or steroids successfully. Please check with your veterinarian for further advice. Symptoms can sometimes take hours to a few days to completely resolve.

Severe Bee Sting Reactions in Dogs

In the most severe cases, dogs can develop anaphylactic shock. In canines, the shock organ is the

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gastrointestinal (GI) tract (in contrast to cats and humans, in which it is the lungs). Dogs in anaphylactic shock do not necessarily develop difficulty breathing. They are much more likely to develop sudden onset of vomiting, diarrhea, and collapse. The diarrhea and vomit can both be extremely bloody, in some cases.

This is an absolute emergency and should be treated as such. Once evaluated by a veterinarian, your dog will be treated for its condition with intravenous (IV) fluids, epinephrine, possibly steroids, oxygen, and very close monitoring. Diagnostic testing will likely include blood pressure monitoring, bloodwork, and maybe an abdominal ultrasound.

Blue Ravine Animal Hospital is prepared to help you and your pet with these dangerous bee stings. Call 916-984-0990.



BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, closed.
 For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600 or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111.

www.blueravineanimalhospital.com

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