

When Is It an Emergency?

Family Matters

One of the hardest decisions any pet guardian has to make is knowing whether a problem can wait until tomorrow or whether it needs immediate veterinary attention.

Nobody wants to overreact.

Equally, nobody wants to leave it too late.

At Amity, we believe that understanding what constitutes an emergency helps you make confident decisions when your pet needs you most. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, so you know when to seek help without unnecessary panic.

Trust Your Instincts

You know your pet better than anyone.

If they're behaving completely out of character, appear distressed or simply don't seem themselves, trust that instinct.

You may not know **what** is wrong.

You don't need to.

That's our job.

Signs That Should Never Wait

Seek veterinary attention immediately if your pet:

- Is struggling to breathe.
- Has collapsed or cannot stand.
- Is having a seizure lasting more than five minutes or repeated seizures.
- Has been hit by a car.
- Has significant bleeding that won't stop.
- Has eaten a known poison.
- Is showing signs of heatstroke.
- Is unable to urinate, especially male cats.
- Has a swollen abdomen and is retching unsuccessfully.
- Has severe pain or is crying continuously.
- Has suffered a serious eye injury.
- Has become suddenly weak, pale or unresponsive.

These situations can become life-threatening very quickly.

Problems That Should Be Seen Soon

Some conditions may not require immediate emergency treatment but should still be assessed the same day or within 24 hours.

These include:

- Repeated vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Loss of appetite, particularly in cats.
- Drinking much more than normal.
- Lameness that doesn't improve with rest.
- Persistent coughing.
- A painful ear.
- Blood in the urine.
- A new lump.
- Sudden behavioural changes.

Early diagnosis often means simpler treatment, lower costs and better outcomes.

When It's Reasonable to Monitor

Not every problem requires an immediate trip to the vet.

For example, a single episode of vomiting in an otherwise bright, happy dog may simply need monitoring.

A small superficial cut may heal with simple first aid.

Our role isn't to tell you that every problem is an emergency.

It's to help you decide which ones are.

If You're Unsure...

Call us.

One of the most valuable things we do is help pet guardians decide what to do next.

Sometimes we'll recommend coming straight in.

Sometimes we'll advise monitoring your pet at home.

Sometimes we'll suggest booking the next available appointment.

The important thing is that **you don't have to make that decision alone.**

It's Always Better to Ask

One of the things we hear most often is:

"I didn't want to waste your time."

Please don't ever worry about that.

We would much rather reassure you that your pet is fine than discover that you delayed because you were worried about bothering us.

No responsible pet guardian should ever feel embarrassed about asking for advice.

Family Matters

Emergencies are frightening.

But remember this:

You don't need to know the diagnosis.

You simply need to recognise when your pet needs help.

At Amity, we're here to guide you through those moments with honesty, compassion and clear advice.

Because when your pet is unwell, you're not facing it alone.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.