



UNDERSTANDING TRIAGE

Triage (*noun/verb*): The assignment of a degree of urgency to wounds or illnesses to decide the order of treatment for multiple patients or injuries.

To serve our clients in the best way possible, we examine our patients on a Triage system, not on a 'First-Come, First- Served' basis. This means we see patients in the order of most to least severe.

Please familiarize yourself with the triage level your pet is likely to be. We are happy to help you.

RED	YELLOW	GREEN
TRUE EMERGENCY	URGENT CARE - Potential Wait time	Non - Urgent <i>Can be seen by your regular veterinarian if you choose not to wait</i>
* Respiratory Distress	* Vomiting (< 2-3 times)	* Itching/Scratching (Chronic)
* Acute (Sudden) Collapse	* Acute Diarrhea (+/- Vomiting)	* Weight Loss (Chronic)
* Unable to Walk or Get Up	* Frequent Urination	* Chronic Illness (Unless Sudden Changes)
* Straining to Urinate (Male Cats)	* Straining to Defecate	* Alopecia/Hair Loss (No Open Sores)
* Blood in Urine (Male Cats)	* Ingestion of Material (NO clinical signs)	* Red/Weeping eyes with NO discharge
* Actively Seizuring	* Loss of Appetite (> 24 hours)	* Red/Irritated Ears/Skin (No Open Sores)
* Seizures (Increased Frequency (Cluster))	* Blood in Urine (Female Cats & Dogs M/F)	* Single Seizure (Little/No Previous History) with Recovery to Normal Mentation.
* Severe Trauma (ie: Hit by a Car)	* Coughing (Wet or Dry) WITHOUT Distress	* Torn/Broken Toe Nail (No Bleeding/Pain)
* Uncontrolled Bleeding	* Toxin Ingestion (Dependant on Material)	* Dental Disease
* Bloating Abdomen (+/- Retching)	* Laceration (Minimal Active Bleeding)	
* Severe Vomiting/Diarrhea (with blood)	* Allergic Reaction (Facial Swelling/Hives)	
* Known Ingested Foreign Material	* Painful/Reactive Ear Infection	
* Trouble or Unable to Whelp/Queen	* "Hot Spot" - Allergic Dermatitis	
* Toxin Ingestion (dependant on material)	* Acutely Increased Urination and/or Thirst	
* Anaphylactic (severe allergic) Reaction	* Red/Weeping Eyes with Cloudy Discharge	
* Pale or White Gums	* Torn/Broken Toe Nail (Painful/Bleeding)	

As Fairfield Animal Hospital is an Emergency Facility we prioritize injuries or illnesses from the **RED and **YELLOW** categories. For injuries and illnesses NOT in the **RED** category, you may be given a wait time to be seen by our medical staff.**

We endeavor to see all patients that enter our hospital and thank you for your patience.

Our Client Service Representatives can provide you with an approximate wait time.

Please let our Team know if your Pets Medical Condition has changed while waiting.