

What do I do in case of a Medical Emergency?

If you have identified a life-threatening situation with a foster animal, please refer to the table of symptoms below to determine next steps.

Column A - If your foster animal is showing symptoms that fall under Column A below, contact the Foster Care Network Coordinator to arrange a veterinary appointment in the **next 12 to 24 hours**.

Column B - If your foster animal is showing symptoms that fall under Column B below, contact the Foster Care Network Coordinator **immediately** to arrange an **immediate veterinary appointment**.

If outside of business hours or you cannot get in contact with the Foster Care Network Coordinator, refer to the emergency out of hours process below the symptom table.

Column A	Column B
Get advice from Foster Care Network Co-ordinator and visit vet in 12-24 hours	Contact Foster Care Network Coordinator to arrange veterinary visit immediately
Lack of appetite or lethargic for greater than 12 hours	Straining to urinate but unable to
Lameness- unable to weight bear for 12 hours	Currently seizing or had a cluster of seizures
Change in colour or smell of urine	Persistent frequent vomiting
Sneezing or coughing	Persistent frequent Diarrhoea or containing blood
Clear/Yellow/ green discharge from eyes or nose	Bitten by snake/spider
Persistent Scratching. Skin or ear irritation	Hit by Car
Straining to defecate	Unconscious or unresponsive
Black tarry faeces	Eaten a toxin or noxious substance
Vomiting occasionally	Difficulty Breathing/laboured breathing
Diarrhoea greater than 24 hours duration	Haemorrhage/white gum colour
Possible seizure	Open wound/suspected fracture
Frequent urination or cleaning of bottom	Puppy/kitten/rabbit/guinea pig not eating
Redness, irritation, swelling or discharge from suture line	Sudden swelling of body part

Medical Emergencies Outside of Business Hours

If a life-threatening situation occurs outside of business hours, take the foster animal to the closest Animal Emergency Centre (AEC) and remember to:

- Take the Foster Agreement Form (or soft copy on phone) with you.
- If you are not located within 40min drive of an AEC, take foster animal to the nearest 24hr veterinary service (any out of pocket expense will be reimbursed).
- AEC will provide an initial consultation (this fee will be invoiced to RSPCA Vic) to assess foster animal and provide indicative cost for treatment.

- Obtain advice from the vet as to whether the foster animal must be treated now or can wait until the RSPCA Victoria Vet Clinic opens.
- If AEC advise treatment is not urgent and can wait until RSPCA Vet Clinic opens, take your foster animal home and contact RSPCA Vet Clinic to make an appointment to bring foster animal in as soon as possible when next open.
- If AEC advise treatment must occur now due to life threatening conditions, AEC to call the RSPCA Victoria Chief Vet to seek advice and approval.
- The AEC and Chief Vet will discuss the situation over the phone with you present.
- Notify the Foster Care Network Team of outcome with foster animal as soon as possible (irrespective of whether life threatening situation occurred during business hours or after hours).
- Comply with all Veterinary advice for the ongoing care and treatment of the foster animal.

RSPCA Victoria Contact List

RSPCA Burwood East	Epping Animal Welfare Facility	RSPCA Peninsula
Foster Care Network Coordinator/Team Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm 03 9224 2565 Sat & Sun closed (please call 03 9224 2222 for any emergencies)	Foster Care Network Coordinator/Team Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm 03 8401 6605 or 0447 935 347 Sat & Sun closed (please call 03 9224 2222 for any emergencies)	Foster Care Network Coordinator/Team Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm 03 5978 9000 or 0428 953 307 Sat & Sun closed (please call 03 9224 2222 for any emergencies)
Veterinary Clinic Monday to Friday 8am - 7:45pm Sat & Sun 8am - 5:45pm 03 9224 2222	Veterinary Clinic Mon, Wed & Friday 11am to 7pm Tuesday & Thursday 7am to 3pm Sat & Sun - 9am to 4pm 03 8401 6600	Veterinary Clinic Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm Sat 9am to 3:45pm Sun 9am to 11:45am 03 5978 9000

Animal Emergency Centre Contacts

Essendon Fields	72 Hargrave Ave, Essendon Fields	3979 0700
Point Cook	6 Wallace Ave, Point Cook	8368 7400
Mount Waverley	37 Blackburn Road, Mount Waverley	9803 8122
Frankston	39 McMahons Road, Frankston	9770 5555
Hallam	18 / 151 - 159 Princes Hwy, Hallam	8795 7020