Lake Pine Animal Hospital
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Emergency Signs Every Puppy Owner Should Know

> Puppies can become ill quickly. Recognizing early warning signs and seeking prompt veterinary care can make a critical difference. When in doubt, it is always safer to call.

Seek Immediate Veterinary Care - Go Straight to a Veterinary Emergency Clinic - If You Notice:

- Difficulty breathing or persistent coughing
- Collapse, weakness, or inability to stand
- Pale, white, blue, or gray gums
- Continuous vomiting or diarrhea (especially with blood)
- Swollen or painful abdomen
- Seizures or uncontrolled shaking
- Trauma (hit by car, fall, bite wound)
- Suspected toxin ingestion

Common Signs of Illness in Puppies That Require Urgent Care - Call for a Same Day Appointment:

- Lethargy or unusual sleepiness
- Refusal to eat for more than one meal
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Sudden behavior changes
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Persistent scratching or head shaking

Toxin Risks

Common household toxins include chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, xylitol (found in sugar-free products), medications, cleaning products, and certain plants. If you suspect ingestion, contact us immediately.

Gum Color & Hydration Check

- Keep sessions calm and positive.
- Healthy gums should be pink and moist. Press gently on the gum – color should return within 1-2 seconds. Delayed refill or dry, tacky gums may indicate dehydration or shock.

When to Call After Hours

If your puppy develops severe symptoms outside of regular hours, seek care at a 24-hour emergency facility. Do not wait overnight if symptoms are worsening.

Trust your instincts. You know your puppy best. If something seems wrong, contact Lake Pine Animal Hospital or an emergency clinic immediately. Early treatment saves lives.