

Warning Signs Of Illness In Dogs/Cats



EYES

- watery
- red
- filmy
- cloudy
- discolored
- dry
- inflamed (swollen)
- hypersensitive to light
- pupils are unequal in size
- pupils are overly dilated or overly constricted
- showing third (or middle) eyelid
- showing discharge
- itchy (animal rubs at eyes)
- painful (animal squints)

NOSE

- scabbed
- showing discharge (clear, mucous, blood, or pus)
- crusty
- cracked
- congested or blocked

SKIN/HAIR/EARS

- coat is dull
- coat is oily, dirty
- coat shows areas of hair loss or thinning
- hair is matted
- skin is dry or flaky
- skin shows swelling, lumps, or lesions
- skin is scabbed
- skin is red, irritated
- animal has fleas, ticks, lice
- showing discharge
- crusty red or inflamed (canal is swollen/thickened)
- hair around ear is matted
- scabbed
- fly-bitten
- itchy (animal scratches ear or shakes head)
- foul odor
- painful (animal cries when ear is touched)

BREATHING/RESPIRATION

- breathing is irregular, rapid, shallow, or labored
- animal is sneezing, coughing, wheezing
- moist lung sounds
- breathing is through mouth



LEGS/FEET

- animal favors one leg (limps)
- animal has limited motion
- animal is weak or uncoordinated
- joint feels tender
- pads are cracked or hard
- pads have matted hair
- nails are long, short, or ingrown
- legs show swelling, lumps, or lesions

ANAL/GENITAL

- area has discharge
- stool is watery or bloody
- animal is constipated
- area around anus shows swelling or lumps
- one or both testicles are not descended (not in scrotum)
- one testicle is harder and/or larger than other

MOUTH

- unusually red or pale, dry
- salivating (animal is drooling)
- foul odor not caused by food
- foreign bodies
- showing discharge
- swollen or inflamed
- gums are pale, white, purple, or inflamed
- teeth are loose, pitted, broken, or tartar-covered
- animal has trouble swallowing

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- animal is very thin or obese
- animal has wounds or abscesses
- animal has swelling, lumps, or bumps
- animal appears to have umbilical hernia
- mammary glands are swollen or oozing discharge
- skin does not spring back (animal is dehydrated)
- animal appears uncoordinated
- animal tilts head
- animal repeatedly circles
- abdomen is bloated
- temperature is abnormal
- animal appears lethargic
- animal appears hyperactive
- animal appears disoriented

Disaster Planning

To increase your pet's chance of surviving a disaster, such as a fire or earthquake, take steps now to prepare for its safety.

