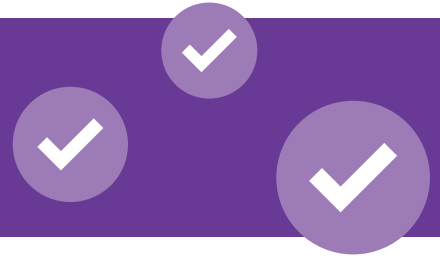


Pet name: _____

Date: _____

VETERINARY TRIAGE CHECKLIST



This triage checklist is designed to maximise veterinary efficiency when prioritising patients and their care during emergencies. It ensures that the most critically ill animals are seen first and given sufficient attention.

Veterinary Telephone Triage

- Identify emergency condition (medical condition or a traumatic event)
- Assess emergency priority level
- Check veterinarian availability
- Alert the veterinary team based on the urgency level
- Advise the client in an emergency to take caution if the pet is in pain
- Document the conversation
- Fill inpatient admission form (animal's breed, sex, age, pet owner details, etc.)
- Get the ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival) of the patient to allow preparation
- Set up and get the equipment ready for the emergency patient's arrival
- Prepare a client consent form

On Arrival Patient Triage

- Perform an initial assessment (survey of the scene)
- Examine the patient's posture and position (can the patient walk?)
- Does the patient have any bleeding/obvious wounds
- Obtain a brief history of the patient's behaviour and events
- Take note of any current medications and previous medical conditions
- Alert the veterinary team of the patient's arrival
- Obtain client consent for any urgent treatments

Patient Examination Triage

Respiration:

- Is the patient's breathing condition normal
- Check mucous membrane colour (cyanosis issue needs to be addressed soon)
- If possible, measure the oxygen saturation of haemoglobin (pulse oximetry machine)
- Evaluate the patient's audible airway sounds (with and without a stethoscope)
- Provide oxygen/intubation if the patient needs it
- Inspect the patient's respiratory rate (abdominal breathing or shallow)

Alertness:

- Is the patient alert, behaving normally, and responsive
- Does the patient show no interest in the environment (depressed: awake but subdued)
- Judge if the patient is delirious (awake but altered perception)
- Does the patient remain in a sleep state aroused by strong stimulus (stuporous)
- Is the patient comatose: deep unconsciousness? Unable to rouse despite stimulus
- Check on ambulatory status
- Does the patient respond to light

Perfusion:

- Is the patient's mucous membrane colour pink to a muddy grey or pale (normal)
- Note down the capillary refill time
- Evaluate the patient's heart rate (increased or decreased)
- Check the patient's pulse deficits
- Conduct cardiac workup
- Perform an electrocardiogram (ECG) for the patient if needed
- State patient's temperature