

What to expect

INTERNAL MEDICINE



52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4

Small Animal Clinic
306-966-7126

Large Animal Clinic
306-966-7178

About the VMC

Welcome to the WCV Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC), the veterinary referral centre for all of Western Canada and the teaching hospital for future veterinarians and veterinary specialists.

Our clinical team includes board-certified veterinary specialists, clinical associates and registered veterinary technologists, as well as veterinary specialists in training (residents), clinical interns and senior veterinary students. We look forward to caring for your pet and meeting you in person.

Before Your Visit

To prepare for your visit to the VMC, please visit us online:

vmc.usask.ca/about/new-client.php

You will find more information about finding our location, parking, hours of operation and the Small Animal Clinic reception area.

What to Expect

While the WCV Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) shares many similarities to other veterinary hospitals, there are some differences that may have an impact on your appointment.

- The VMC is a teaching hospital for WCV veterinary students and for students enrolled in the veterinary technology program at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Please note that teaching takes additional time. Students participate in all aspects of examining and treating our patients under the immediate supervision of licensed veterinarians and board-certified veterinary specialists. While teaching is essential to our facility, the well-being of our patients is the highest priority for VMC clinical teams.
- Given the complexity of referral cases, we often need to order additional diagnostic testing or consult with others about diagnoses and treatment plans for patients. If you are travelling from out of town, please be prepared to stay two days in Saskatoon with your pet. In some cases, your stay may need to be longer. During your appointment, we will give you an estimate of the length of time it may take for additional tests and consultation.

General Steps

Here's a general overview of your pet's visit to the VMC:

- A senior veterinary student will meet you at the Small Animal Clinic reception and bring you and your pet to a vacant examination room.
- The veterinary student will ask questions about your pet's medical history and then perform an initial physical assessment of your pet with the assistance of a veterinary technologist.
- Sometimes it's easier to perform a complete physical examination with additional help. The veterinary student may ask to bring your pet to the clinic's treatment room for examination by the veterinary clinician with the help of other students and veterinary technologists.
- Once your pet has been examined and the care team has made an assessment, the veterinarian and the veterinary student will return



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Payment

If **your animal is not hospitalized**, the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre requires full payment at the time of service.

If **your animal is hospitalized**, half of the estimated cost is due prior to services being provided. Final payment is due at the time of discharge.

Occasionally, the hospital will mail statements to you after discharge for additional tests that were approved by you and for charges not included on the initial invoice at discharge.

The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre accepts the following payment methods:

- cash
- credit card (Visa and MasterCard)
- debit card (Interac)

Personal cheques are not accepted.

If you have questions about payment, call the administration office at 306-966-7103, or visit vmc.usask.ca/about/payment.php.

For more information

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vmccorrespond@usask.ca

General Steps, continued . . .

to go over the initial assessment with you and to give you their diagnostic recommendations. They may suggest additional diagnostic tests such as blood tests, radiographs or an ultrasound examination.

- If you agree to further diagnostic testing, you may be asked to leave your pet at the Small Animal Clinic for a certain period of time. For more extensive diagnostic testing or procedures that require general anesthesia, it is very likely that your pet will need to stay overnight at the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre before (and potentially after) the scheduled tests and/or procedure.
- If possible (based on your pet's condition and travel time), it is preferable to have your pet fasted eight hours before arrival at the VMC. Fasting is required for a number of blood tests as well as for sedation or anesthesia. Fasting your pet in advance will minimize the time required to prepare your pet for diagnostic tests or procedures.