

# What to expect

## OPHTHALMOLOGY



52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4

**Small Animal Clinic** | **Large Animal Clinic**  
306-966-7126 | 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](http://vmc.usask.ca/about/new-client.php)

You will find more information about 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. Teaching does take additional time, but the VMC clinical team members work hard to provide prompt, efficient service within a teaching environment.
- Students participate in most 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.

### General Steps

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

- A senior veterinary student or a veterinary technician will meet you at the Small Animal Clinic reception and bring you and your pet to the ophthalmology examination room.
- An ophthalmology examination may last one to two hours, depending on the number of tests that need to be performed.
- The veterinary student will ask questions about your pet's medical history and then perform an initial physical assessment of your pet's vision and comfort as well as your pet's overall health. Please bring a list of medications (or the actual drugs) that your pet is currently taking or has been prescribed in the past.
- The veterinary technician will perform specific ophthalmic diagnostic tests including the following:
  - measurement of tear production
  - use of ocular stains to assess the eye's integrity
  - measurements of intraocular pressure



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[www.usask.ca/vmc](http://www.usask.ca/vmc)

## 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](http://vmc.usask.ca/about/payment.php).

## For more information

### Small Animal Clinic

306-966-7126

[vmccorrespond@usask.ca](mailto:vmccorrespond@usask.ca)

## General Steps, continued . . .

- In most cases, it is necessary to dilate your pet's eyes so the ophthalmologist can assess the back of the eye (including the retina and optic nerve). Dilation can take up to 20 minutes. During this time, the student will perform the preliminary ophthalmic and physical examinations.
- Once your pet's eyes are dilated, a veterinary ophthalmologist and/or an ophthalmology resident will come in to meet you and your pet. He or she will make an assessment, briefly discuss the findings with you and then develop a treatment plan. Depending on the problem, it may be necessary to order additional testing, blood work and medical imaging.
- At the end of your appointment, the ophthalmologist will provide a written summary and instructions for your pet's care. If the specialist prescribes medications, it will often take some time for these prescriptions to be processed and filled.
- If your pet is scheduled to undergo cataract surgery, glaucoma therapy or retinal detachment therapy, please visit [usask.ca/vmc/small-animal/](http://usask.ca/vmc/small-animal/) and from the **Other Specialties** drop down menu, click on **Ophthalmology** to find more detailed information about these procedures.