

# What to expect REHABILITATION



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 animal 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 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 some cases, we may need to order additional diagnostic tests or consult with others about diagnoses and treatment plans for patients. If this is the case, we will arrange an appointment for your animal to return for further testing.

## General Steps

The WCV Veterinary Medical Centre rehabilitation team offers a variety of services targeting animals that are recovering from an illness or injury. We can help to manage a chronic condition such as arthritis, or we can provide general fitness for weight loss or conditioning of animals ranging from pets to working dogs and athletes in a variety of sports. Our rehabilitation equipment and modalities include therapeutic laser, radial shockwave, therapeutic ultrasound, underwater treadmill and various types of "gym" equipment. Acupuncture and electro-acupuncture are also available.

Dogs and cats are the main species treated in the VMC rehabilitation service, but our clinicians are also able to care for birds, rabbits and other exotic species.

Here's a general overview of your pet's visit to the WCV Veterinary Medical Centre's rehabilitation service:

- When you and your pet arrive for your appointment, one of our animal attendants will meet you at the Small Animal Clinic reception



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

## 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 . . .

area and bring you to the VMC's rehabilitation centre. The animal attendant will assist the clinician with the physical exam and treatments.

- The initial exam and assessment will take about 90 minutes. Any subsequent appointments are 45 minutes in length.
- When senior veterinary students are participating in the rehabilitation rotation, the length of your appointment will be affected; it may take up to two hours for an initial evaluation and one hour for a regular treatment.

Here's a general outline of what takes place during your pet's initial assessment:

- The veterinary student or clinician will take a comprehensive history of your pet's health and physical fitness level.
- Your animal will receive a detailed evaluation that includes physical and orthopedic examinations as well as an examination of muscles and joint ranges of motion.
- Where appropriate, we will evaluate lameness using a pressure-sensitive walkway linked to a computer.
- Where appropriate, we will use a thermal imaging camera to detect areas of increased heat.
- The clinician will discuss findings with you and make recommendations for additional tests (if needed) or a treatment plan.
- In some cases, the clinical team will provide a brief initial treatment during the evaluation appointment.
- We do require that the pet's owner is present for the initial assessment, but for future appointments, many of our clients find it more convenient to leave their pets in our care for the full day. The rehabilitation service offers "drop off" appointments: you're welcome to drop off your pet as early as 7 a.m. and pick up your companion animal as late as 8 p.m.
- If you choose to purchase a "package" for ongoing future appointments, the VMC offers discounted rates for four, eight or 16 sessions with the VMC rehabilitation service.

### General Steps, continued . . .

- The clinician will develop a customized plan for your pet, which may include recommendations for exercises and stretches that can be performed in your own home environment instead of (or in addition to) scheduled rehabilitation sessions at the VMC. After the initial visit, our team will send you a detailed discharge note by email.
- We find that most animals thoroughly enjoy their visits to the VMC rehabilitation centre and look forward to their sessions. We reward pets with treats and verbal encouragement, and they often find the exercises stimulating and fun.