

What to expect

EQUINE GASTROSCOPY



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 WCVM 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

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

What to Expect

While the WCVM 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 WCVM 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 animal. 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

A typical appointment for an equine gastroscopy will include the following steps:

- Your horse will need to be fasted prior to the gastroscopy (no access to food for 16 hours and no access to water for two hours). You can meet these requirements through one of the following options:
 - Bring your horse to the Veterinary Medical Centre the evening before the gastroscopy (with a fee for overnight stay)
 - Restrict your horse's feed at home. The night before your visit, remove all feed, bedding and access to grass from your horse (you may need to use a muzzle). If your horse's stomach is not completely empty for the gastroscopy, we may need to delay the procedure.



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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

Large Animal Clinic
306-966-7178
vmccorrespond@usask.ca

General Steps, continued . . .

- A senior veterinary student or a house officer (clinical interns or residents who are licensed veterinarians) will meet you at the Large Animal Clinic reception. A veterinary technologist will help you unload your horse.
- A senior veterinary student and house officer will take a complete medical history of your horse and then conduct physical examination with a veterinary technologist's assistance.
- Our clinical team will weigh and then sedate your horse while it is standing in the stocks. Once your horse is sedated, we will pass the endoscope through its nasal passage into the stomach. The endoscope's camera allows us to visualize your horse's stomach and esophageal lining. It's also equipped with a portal so we can introduce air or water and aspirate your horse's stomach fluid if needed.
- You are welcome to stay and watch, wait at reception or leave the hospital. We will call you when our team is ready to discuss our findings and recommendations and to answer your questions.
- The gastroscopy usually lasts about 40 to 60 minutes from the time the horse is taken to the stocks until it returns to a stall. Your horse will need another 30 to 40 minutes to completely recover from sedation and be fit for transportation. If a prescription is needed, we may prepare it during this time. Overall, please expect your appointment to take a minimum of two hours on the day of the gastroscopy.
- We will let you know when your horse is ready to be discharged. Please note that full bill payment is required before discharge.
- We will discuss your horse's discharge recommendations with you. We will print a copy of these notes at the time of discharge or email them to you by the next day.
- If we diagnose your horse with gastric ulcers, we recommend a recheck gastroscopy at the end of a treatment course.