



While the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) offers diagnosis and care for patients with neurological issues, please note that the VMC does not have a board-certified veterinary neurologist on site. The VMC's specialists in small animal medicine and small animal surgery see and manage all neurology cases that are referred to the veterinary teaching hospital.

General Steps

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

- A senior veterinary student will meet you at the Small Animal Clinic reception and bring you and your pet to an 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 is easier to perform a complete physical and neurological examination with some additional assistance. The veterinary student may ask to take your pet to the clinic's neurology room for examination by the veterinary neurologist with the help of other students and veterinary technologists.
- The neurologist and the veterinary student will return from the examination room with your pet to discuss the initial assessment and provide you with their diagnostic recommendations. They may suggest additional tests, such as radiographs, an ultrasound examination, a computed tomography (CT) scan or a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test.
- If you agree to further diagnostic tests, you may be asked to leave your pet at the Small Animal Clinic for a certain amount of time. For more extensive diagnostic testing or procedures that require general anesthesia, it is possible that your pet will stay overnight at the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre before (and potentially after) the scheduled tests and/or procedure.
- Our medical imaging specialists will need time to review images and discuss the test results with the neurologist. This process could take several hours or even an entire day.

If an MRI test is recommended for your pet, we typically schedule the procedure for the following day. If surgery is required, we will try to co-ordinate with the hospital's anesthesia team so both procedures can be done on the same day.

However, because the VMC provides emergency care, your pet's procedure may be delayed if a critical patient is brought to the hospital.

If your pet is scheduled for an MRI test, here are some key instructions:

- Do not feed your pet after midnight on the night before his/her appointment
- Continue to give your pet free access to water
- Continue to give prescribed medications to your pet

Members of the neurology team will meet with you before and after your pet's procedure. A senior veterinary student will call you twice a day while your pet is recovering in the hospital and will contact you after your pet returns home. You will also receive detailed discharge instructions and contact information for any further questions.

Most neurology surgery patients will need a follow up examination four weeks after surgery. This can be done here at the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre or with your regular veterinarian.

If you would like to return to the WCVM, you can speak to the neurology liaison representative to schedule an appointment.

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 our location, parking, hours of operation and the clinic reception areas.

More details about 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 (personal cheques are not accepted):

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

Questions about payment?

Call the administration office (306-966-7103) or visit vmc.usask.ca/about/payment.php.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Veterinary Medical Centre

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Large Animal Clinic
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