

What to expect DENTISTRY



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 Small 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 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

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

- A senior veterinary student will meet you at the Small Animal Clinic reception and bring you and your pet to a vacant 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 registered veterinary technologist or veterinarian.
- The clinician will then discuss the case with the student and present their findings to you and give you their diagnostic recommendations. The clinical team 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 or schedule a follow-up appointment. For more extensive diagnostic testing or procedures that require general anesthesia, it is possible that your pet will need to stay overnight at the WCVM Veterinary



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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

Small Animal Clinic
306-966-7126
vmccorrespond@usask.ca

General Steps, continued . . .

Medical Centre before (and potentially after) the scheduled tests and/or procedure.

- Once our evaluation is complete, we will write a summary of our findings and recommendations and discuss them with you before you leave. If your regular veterinarian has referred your pet to the WCVM Small Animal Clinic, a copy of the summary will also be sent to the referring practitioner.

Dental Service

The dentistry department at VCM offers routine dental services — such as preventive cleaning and extraction of diseased teeth — as well as specialty procedures performed by our board-certified dentist. Like human dental procedures, our dentistry team can perform root canals and dental caps as well as oral splints and wires for jaw fractures caused by trauma.

Here's what to expect during a dental consultation appointment:

- You and your pet will come for a consultation and an oral examination with the dental team. Your pet does not need to be fasted before this appointment.
- The student or clinician will take a comprehensive history of your pet's health and lifestyle and discuss your concerns.
- Your pet will receive a detailed physical examination. If we recommend a dental cleaning or surgical procedure, we will provide you with an estimate of the procedure's cost at the time of the consultation.
- If we recommend a dental procedure for your pet, you can schedule the procedure before you leave the clinic. We do not perform dental surgery procedures on the same day as the exam and consultation.
- Unless otherwise directed, follow these instructions the evening before your pet's dental surgery:
 - do not feed your pet after midnight
 - continue giving your pet free access to water
 - continue giving prescribed drugs to your pet

General Steps, continued . . .

- Typically, we ask you to bring your pet to the Small Animal Clinic between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on the day of the dental procedure. Before you leave the clinic, we will ask you to provide a contact number and to complete a short questionnaire.
- Once the procedure is complete, a student or the clinician will contact you with an update and arrange a time for your pet's discharge. Your pet will be able to return home on the same day as the surgical procedure.
- A student or clinician will discuss detailed home care instructions with you and provide a paper copy of discharge instructions. We will also send a copy of these instructions to your regular veterinarian.