



Wheat Ridge
Veterinary Specialists

Expertise You Can Trust.



emergency & critical care

internal medicine

surgery

dermatology

radiology, ultrasound & CT scan

Allergic Reaction



Swelling of the face is known as “angioneurotic edema”, and is a common sign of allergic reaction in dogs and cats.

Your pet has just had an allergic reaction. Common causes of allergic reactions include bee stings, vaccination, and spider bites. In many cases, we may never know what your pet has been exposed to that has caused signs of hives, swelling of the face, itchiness, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. Severe forms of allergic reactions are known as anaphylaxis, and cause difficulty breathing, weakness, low blood pressure, and collapse. If your pet is showing any of these severe abnormal signs, bring them to the closest veterinary hospital immediately!

When an animal comes through our front door on emergency, most will be taken into the back for immediate assessment by the attending veterinarian. The veterinarian or certified veterinary technician will discuss treatment needs before giving any medications. In many cases, a combination of steroid and antihistamine drugs will be administered to help decrease swelling, hives, and inflammation. For more life-threatening anaphylactic reactions, epinephrine (adrenaline), oxygen, and intravenous fluids may also be necessary to help save your pet's life.

After your pet is discharged from the hospital, watch closely for signs of difficulty breathing, weakness, lethargy, collapse, facial swelling, hives, vomiting and diarrhea. In dogs, it is not uncommon to develop mild vomiting and diarrhea within 1 – 2 days of having an allergic reaction.

If your pet has had an allergic reaction to a vaccination, your veterinarian may elect not to vaccinate anymore, or may pre-treat with an antihistamine before any further vaccinations are administered. Make sure that you remind any new veterinarian that your pet has had a vaccine reaction in the past, to help avoid ongoing problems. We will place an alert in your pet's medical record, to remind us at all times of your pet's special medical history. After going home, if your pet exhibits any abnormal clinical signs, please contact us immediately. At Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital, a staff veterinarian trained in emergency and critical care medicine and licensed veterinary technicians are on the premises at all times if your pet has an emergency.

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve your pet's emergency needs. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, problems or concerns.

WHEAT RIDGE OFFICE

3695 Kipling St., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
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WESTMINSTER OFFICE

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