

Foster Medical Concerns and Emergency Guidelines

Updated 3.10.23 by SA

During business hours, Wednesday-Friday 8am-4pm, Saturday 8am-2pm:

Green section (Monitor) and Yellow section (urgent): Email fostervettech@hswestmi.org

Red section (Emergency): Seek immediate medical attention for stabilization ONLY at the shelter

For after hours, Sunday-Tuesday, and holidays:

Yellow and Red sections: submit a request through

<https://form.jotform.com/HSWM/foster-emergencies>. Inquiries submitted via JotForm will be monitored throughout the day from 8am-8pm. It may take a couple of hours for you to receive a response. In the meantime, please follow the guidelines below.

Emergency - Submit a JotForm and go to ER immediately

Seek immediate medical attention for **STABILIZATION** at:

Animal Emergency Hospital: 3260 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525

Animal Emergency and Specialty Hospital: 6820 Edgeview Ave SW. Byron Center MI 49315

******If you go to BluePearl, we are unable to reimburse any care******

Unresponsive/unable to wake - Crashing Kitten - Respiratory distress - Repetitive seizures -
Severe laceration/life threatening wound - Toxin ingestion - Hit by car - Bloating
abdomen and vomiting in large breed dog

Urgent - Submit a JotForm

Medical staff will respond to your JotForm concern in a timely manner

Persistent/bloody vomiting - Fever - Minor wounds - Limping - Severe diarrhea -
Decreased appetite - Male cats straining to urinate - Lost animal - Ingestion of
foreign body

Monitor - Email Foster Vet Tech

The Foster Veterinary Technician will respond during regular business hours

Congestion - Nasal/Ocular discharge - Mild diarrhea - Infrequent vomiting - Coughing -
Hair loss - Fleas - Medication refills - Eye injuries/issues - Frequent urination

If you must go to one of the Animal Emergency Hospitals:

Please let them know you are fostering through the Humane Society of West Michigan. The animal will be put under our HSWM profile and one of our staff members will be contacted in regards to their care.

Fosters cannot do the following:

- Make medical decisions (i.e., diagnostic testing or euthanasia) in regards to the animal
- Claim the animal as their own unless you are adopting them

If you are bringing an animal to the emergency hospital, it is for **stabilization only** or immediate care for the medical emergencies in the red section. Most diagnostic testing and/or medication dispensing we can do in house, alleviating work on the hospital staff as well as helping alleviate the cost of the hospital bill. **Any diagnostic testing or other medical decisions at the hospital MUST be approved by a STAFF member of HSWM.** We don't want our fosters burdened with hard decisions that may need to be made, so we ask that you just bring them to the hospital and let us handle the rest for you. If you decide to go home instead of waiting at the hospital, we can update you on their care if desired.

Most emergency hospitals require a deposit of a certain percentage of the estimated bill for treatment and possible hospitalization. You should not have to pay anything unless prior arrangements were made. The hospital should invoice HSWM directly.

If you receive hospital medical records of your foster animal and/or an itemized invoice, please bring this to HSWM when you are able. If you aren't able to bring them in, or don't have them on hand, we can call and have the file emailed to us.