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Is My Pet Sick?

Disease is easier to cure if caught early. We offer the following guidelines so that you will be able to make wise decisions about your pet's health. Follow this approach and you will spare your pet unnecessary pain or suffering, as well as spare yourself the expense and distress of untimely trips to the clinic.

Has your pet exhibited a change from usual or normal in any of the following areas?

- 1. Eye(s):** swollen, red, runny, discharge, etc.
- 2. Nose:** runny, discharge, crust, etc.
- 3. Ear(s):** discharge, debris, odor, scratching, shaking, etc.
- 4. Coughing:** gagging, sneezing, retching or vomiting.
- 5. Breathing:** irregular, panting, difficulty, etc.
- 6. Stool:** color, consistency, frequency, straining, blood, etc.
- 7. Appetite:** is food intake more or less?
- 8. Weight:** losing or gaining?
- 9. Drinking:** more or less?
- 10. Urine:** color, frequency, straining, amount, dribbling, blood, etc.
- 11. Odor:** from where?
- 12. Skin:** wound, tumor, hair loss, dander, biting, scratching, licking, etc.
- 13. Behavior:** depression, anxiety, fatigue, lethargy, weakness, convulsions, restlessness, sleepiness, trembling, stumbling, falling, stiffness, etc.

If your pet has exhibited any of the above signs, consider each sign and make a written list of answers to the following questions:

- A) When did the sign first begin?
- B) How many hours, days, weeks, etc has each sign been present?
- C) Has each sign been continuous, intermittent, more frequent, more severe, worse or better?

Now ask yourself:

1. If these signs were exhibited by a human baby in my care, would I phone a physician?
2. If these signs were exhibited by me, would I phone a physician?

If your answer to either question is "Yes" or "Probably", phone us with your written list and ask us for advice.