



## **What to expect at my pet's Special Species Appointment?**

### **Who Will I See During My Initial Appointment?**

**Overview:** UW Veterinary Care is a teaching institution, and your care team includes a board-certified veterinary specialist in Zoological Medicine, veterinarians in advanced clinical training programs (residents and interns), veterinary nurses (certified veterinary technicians), and fourth-year veterinary students.

**Examination:** A veterinary student and/or veterinary nurse will review your pet's medical history with you first. The medical history will be discussed with the supervising veterinarian(s) and an initial physical examination will be performed. Once your pet's case, medical history, and physical examination is reviewed, the veterinary care team will discuss recommendations and diagnostics. Together with the veterinary care team, you will decide on the best diagnostic plan for your pet. A medical treatment estimate will be provided and can be discussed with the team.

**Diagnostic Tests:** Patients undergoing diagnostic tests frequently need to stay with us for several hours in order to complete any bloodwork, imaging, other diagnostic procedures and/or treatments. In some cases, we may need to give patients sedative medications to minimize their stress during the procedures; veterinary care team will discuss this with you at the time of the appointment.

**Discharge:** At discharge, the veterinarian and student will discuss and explain all of the diagnostic test results. They will also make recommendations for further treatment, if needed. Once finalized, we will send a detailed written report of diagnostic findings and treatment plans to you, and if applicable to your referring primary care veterinarian, via email. After your appointment or hospital discharge, we will work with you, and if applicable your referring primary care veterinarian, to provide continued care. Please be sure that you have all prescribed medications for your pet before you leave.

### **Who are part of the Veterinary Care Team?**

- **Faculty Clinicians:** Our faculty are licensed veterinarians, board-certified by the American College of Zoological Medicine, who are nationally and internationally recognized experts in the medical and surgical care of exotic pets and all non-domestic animal species.
- **Veterinary Nurses:** Our veterinary nurses are certified veterinary technicians
- **Zoological Medicine Residents and Interns:** Our residents and interns are all licensed veterinarians who have completed at least one year of advanced clinical training. They provide clinical service and teach students as part of an accredited program leading to board certification by the American College of Zoological Medicine.
- **Small Animal Interns:** Interns are licensed veterinarians in an accredited advanced clinical training program. They also provide clinical service and teaching.

- **Fourth-Year Medical Students:** Our fourth-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students rotate through hospital services to gain closely supervised clinical experience.

**What Costs and Fees Should I Expect?** The initial examination fee will be dependent on appointment type and species (ex: wellness, emergency, referral). Please call us to discuss fees.

**Common initial diagnostic tests for exotic pets include:** blood sample collection for a complete blood count (CBC) and organ function tests (biochemical profile), and imaging (most commonly a CT scan and/or radiographs). Sedation is commonly performed to safely facilitate these diagnostic tests. These diagnostics tests are an additional cost to the examination fee.

If your pet is hospitalized, billing staff will contact you by phone to collect a deposit comprising 50% of the upper end of the estimate range provided by the service. Please note that for outpatient visits and hospitalized patients, the balance must be paid in full at the time of patient discharge. Charges or credits may be applied to your bill up to 10 business days after the date of discharge.

We hope you found this information helpful. If you have any further questions, please reach out to us at 608-263-7600