Fridge-Ready Exotic Pet Emergency Triage Card

> **Companion Reference Sheet for:** Emergency Exotic Vet: Confirm After-Hours Access Before You Need It
> Save this PDF to your phone or print a copy for field reference. This sheet does not replace an exam by a veterinarian. If your pet is in distress, call a vet now.

Key Takeaways

- Call before travelling and confirm your pet's exact species, clinician availability, and whether the hospital can accept the case now.
- Open 24 hours does not necessarily mean exotic animal care is available 24 hours.
- Ask where to go if the hospital cannot examine your pet or provide the care needed.
- Keep a second exotic-capable hospital's phone number and after-hours instructions with your pet's records.
- Prepare a secure carrier, relevant medications, and recent health information before an emergency happens.
- Typical U.S. Emergency costs vary by region and hospital. Ask for current fees and an estimate directly.

What Counts as an Exotic Pet Emergency?

Emergency service	Estimated cost
After-hours emergency exotic triage exam	$165 to $295
Complete exotic blood panel and biochemistry	$120
Two-view digital radiographs or X-rays	$180 to $350
24-hour exotic ICU hospitalization and oxygen	$450

How After-Hours Access Differs from Online Advice

Service description	What the number means	What to confirm
Hospital open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	Emergency doors are open around the clock	Whether a clinician for your species is on site or on call
Online consultation available 24/7/365	Remote advice may be available at any time	Whether your pet needs immediate in-person treatment
Online appointments often available within 15 to 30 minutes	Some listed telehealth appointments may begin in that time	Whether waiting for an appointment is safe for your pet

After-Hours Emergency Checklist

Save this checklist with your pet's medical records. You can use it to make a call quickly without trying to remember every detail under stress.

☐ **Before an emergency:** Record the primary clinic and alternate hospital, their after-hours numbers, and the species each treats.

☐ **On the phone:** Give the species, symptoms, start time, changes, possible toxin exposure, and your location.

☐ **Confirm the plan:** Ask whether an exotics-trained clinician is available, whether the hospital can take the case now, and where to go if not.

☐ **Gather records:** Bring recent test results, medication names and doses, known conditions, and the regular veterinarian's contact details.

☐ **Prepare transport:** Use a secure, escape-resistant carrier with familiar, nonslip bedding. Keep the temperature appropriate for your species and avoid placing your pet directly on a heating pad or other heat source.

☐ **Reduce stress:** Keep handling and noise low, secure the carrier in the vehicle, and follow the clinic's transport instructions.

Do not give human medication, force food or water, or try a home treatment unless a veterinarian directs you to do so. If toxin exposure is possible, keep the packaging or take a clear photo of the product and call the clinic for instructions.

A bird being examined by a veterinarian is shown below. If your pet is having trouble breathing or is rapidly worsening, call the clinic while preparing to leave rather than delaying care to gather nonessential items.

Published by Exotic Vets (exotic-vets.com), a publication of Viking Trading Group LLC.

Source URL: https://exotic-vets.com/guides/emergency-exotic-vet-confirm-after-hours-access-before-you-need-it/