

What to Expect: Farm Animal Hospitalization

When your cow, sheep, goat, pig, alpaca, llama or camel requires hospitalization, it usually means there is a significant issue that requires specialized attention. We understand that it can be stressful when your farm animal has a serious health concern, and you are likely worried about his or her health and prognosis. The faculty, staff and students at the UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center's Farm Animal Hospital are dedicated to the compassionate care of each of our patients. When needed, we will also work with your primary veterinarian to ensure continuity of care upon discharge.

COMMUNICATION

A member of the veterinary care team will update you on your animal's condition at least once a day. If there is a significant change in your animal's condition, we will contact you right away, even if it is in the middle of the night. **If you have a question or concern, or are just worried, please call us at 865-974-5701.**

You are welcome to visit while he or she is hospitalized. To maintain our quality of care, decrease patient stress, and provide owners with the most current and accurate information about their animals, we have established a visitation policy similar to those found in human hospitals. Animals that are sick require rest just as hospitalized humans would. This policy has been instituted for your safety and for the comfort of all hospitalized patients. **Please ask about our visitation policies and let the front desk staff know when you would like to visit.** Always check in with the reception staff when you arrive.

COMPASSIONATE CARE

During hospitalization, our patients are monitored around the clock by dedicated members of the veterinary team. Any changes in condition or comfort are rapidly evaluated and addressed, even if they occur in the middle of the night.

Our Farm Animal Hospital features:

- An entire ward solely devoted to the hospitalization of cattle, small ruminants and pigs, and camelids.
- In-stall oxygen in several stalls
- Hoists and flotation tanks to provide support for debilitated or downer cows, camelids, and small ruminants
- IV pumps for precise administration of fluids and other medications
- Stall-side blood analysis
- 24-hour access to the clinical pathology service for complete blood analysis enabling rapid evaluation of any significant changes in patient status
- Whole blood and plasma transfusions
- A state-of-the-art surgical facility with padded induction and recovery stall solely devoted to farm animals
- Diagnostic imaging (radiology, ultrasonography, endoscopy, CT, and MRI)
- Several cattle chutes to ensure safety for the animal and our team.

Some of our services include but are not limited to:

- 24/7 emergency service (call 865-974-8387)
- General care (vaccination, deworming, foot care, and dental work)
- Treatment of wounds, fracture repair, and other more complex surgical conditions
- Treatment of common and complex internal medicine cases affecting any farm animal species
- Foot care for cattle and other minor species (from foot trims to advanced medical care)
- Pregnancy diagnosis and reproductive abnormalities (infertility, difficult deliveries, prolapses, infections, etc.)
- Neonatal care (diarrhea, pneumonia, failure to thrive, etc.)

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Large Animal specialists who are board certified in surgery, internal medicine, anesthesia, and reproduction, supervise the care of every patient. Board-certified specialists commonly have 4-8 years of additional training after veterinary school, which includes a year of internship, 3 years of residency, and meeting stringent certification requirements. They have undergone specialized training that is not part of a typical veterinary education and are the experts in their field with advanced knowledge and skills.

In addition to the specialists in our Farm Animal Hospital, the UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center also has world-renowned veterinary specialists in diagnostic imaging, cardiology, ophthalmology, dermatology, nutrition, dentistry, oncology, and neurology. Unique in the state and region, these highly trained specialists are available for on-site consultation.

Thank you for trusting the UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center with the care of your farm animal.

We are committed to providing the best possible patient care.