

Polytrauma

What is polytrauma?

When your pet sustains injuries from being hit by something. Common situations where this is encountered is from being hit by a car or from falling from a height like a balcony several floors up.



What should I do if my animal is hurt in this way?

Get them to a veterinarian, ideally one with emergency capabilities in case the internal injuries are more severe than expected. But stay safe as well. Many animals will bite or react unexpectedly when in pain. Wrapping them in a towel or blanket, and using helpers to get the animal to a car so that you can get them to the hospital can be helpful. If you do not think your pet is hurt enough to warrant an emergency room visit it is still a very good idea to have your pet see a veterinarian as soon as possible to look for less apparent injuries as well as to get medication advice. Do not give your pet over the counter pain medications as many of these medications can be harmful to pets.

What will happen when I arrive at the veterinary emergency hospital?

Most likely your patient will be assessed for life threatening injuries, and oxygen support, pain medications, and fluids will be given immediately.

What types of injuries might my animal have?

The most important injuries that we will assess for are the life threatening internal injuries. These include, but are not limited to:

- Ruptured lung lobes
- Bleeding in to the chest
- Bleeding in to the abdomen
- A ruptured bladder
- A diaphragmatic hernia
- Bruising to the lungs