

Pet First Aid



24 Hour Vet Phone Number

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Pet First Aid Kit

- Veterinarian telephone number, address.
- Veterinarian's emergency after-hours number.
- Phone, address location of closest animal hospital.
- National Animal Poison Control Center 1-800-548-2423 (fee charged)
- Gauze to wrap wounds, muzzle animal.
- Nonstick bandages to protect wounds.
- Towels, cloth to control bleeding.
- Hydrogen peroxide (3%) to disinfect.
- Milk of Magnesia or activated charcoal to absorb poison. (Never treat pet for poisoning without directions from a veterinarian/poison center.)
- Large syringe (without needle) or eyedropper to give oral treatments.
- Muzzle or towel to cover small animals head. Do not use if pet is vomiting.
- Saline solution.
- Plastic gloves.

Do not get on-line to search for treatment information during a pet emergency or when your pet is seriously ill. Contact or take your pet to a veterinarian immediately. Always seek veterinary care following first-aid treatments.

Bite Wounds

Approach pet carefully. Muzzle pet. Check wound, if contamination or debris present, rinse with saline solution or water. Wrap large open wounds to keep clean. Apply pressure to profusely bleeding wounds. Do not use a tourniquet. Call veterinarian.

Bleeding

Apply firm, direct pressure over bleeding area until bleeding stops. Hold pressure for at least 10 minutes. Releasing pressure to check wound will hinder clotting. Do not cut off circulation. Call veterinarian.

Burns

Flush the burn immediately with large amounts of cool water. Wrap ice pack in towel or cloth and apply for 15 to 20 minutes. Call veterinarian.

Fractures

Muzzle pet and look for bleeding. Control bleeding as best you can without causing more injury. Watch for signs of shock. DO NOT TRY TO SET THE FRACTURE by pulling or tugging on the limb. Support limb as best you can and get animal to a veterinarian.



Heatstroke

If pet shows signs of rapid or labored breathing, vomiting, high body temperature or collapses place the animal in a tub of cool water or wrap in cool, wet towels. You can also gently soak animal with garden hose. Do not overcool. Stop cooling when rectal temperature reaches 103 degrees F. Call veterinarian.

Shock

Symptoms: Irregular breathing, dilated pupils. Shock may occur when there is serious injury or fright. Keep pet gently restrained, quiet and warm, with lower body elevated. Call veterinarian.

Muzzling your pet

Use a strip of soft cloth, rope, a necktie or nylon stocking. Wrap around nose, under the chin and tie behind the ears. Even docile, friendly pets may bite when in pain. Allow the pet to pant after handling by loosening or removing the muzzle. Do not use a muzzle if pet is vomiting. Cats and small pets may be difficult to muzzle. A towel placed around or over the head will help control small pets.

Transporting pets

If your pet is too big to carry or cannot walk, use a door, board, blanket or floor mat as a stretcher to transport them to a veterinarian.

Calming your pet

Speak in a soft, soothing tone. Avoid direct eye contact, some animals may perceive it as a threat.

Know Your Pet. Here are standard ranges for:

Heart beats:

- Puppy (until one year)-120 to 160/min.
- Small, miniature or toy breeds, 30 pounds or less-100 to 160/min.
- Medium to large (over 30 pounds)-60 to 100/min.

Breathing rates:

- Dog: 10 to 30 breaths per minute or up to 200 pants per minute
- Cats: 20-30 breaths per minute or up to 300 pants per minute. (Cats do not normally pant unless frightened or in distress. If they pant for more than a few minutes, treat as an emergency.)

Body Temperature

- Dog: 100.2-102.8 F.
- Cat: 100.5-102.8 F.

Temperatures under 100 and over 104 F. should be treated as an emergency.