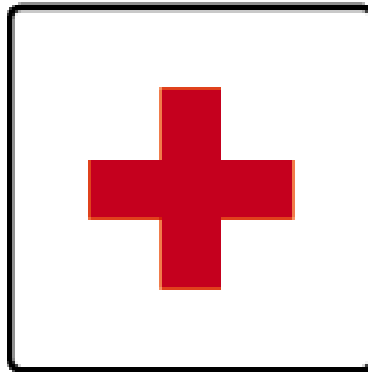


FIRST AID TIPS

FOR YOUR 4 LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS



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First Aid Quick Reference Guide

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Disclaimer: The contents of this guide cannot replace veterinary care. While I believe this information to be accurate, I cannot be held responsible for problems caused by care given under the direction of this guide.

Abrasions:

Do:

- ⇒ Clean affected area with disinfecting wound cleanser such as hydrogen peroxide, chlorhexidine, or betadine.
- ⇒ Keep the wound clean.
- ⇒ Apply topical antibiotic ointment daily.

Anaphylaxis/Allergic Reaction:

Signs: Excitability, vomiting, diarrhea, urination, hives, facial swelling, breathing difficulty, lethargy, shock.

Do:

- ⇒ Give 1 mg/# Benadryl (diphenhydramine) by mouth.
- ⇒ Monitor for shock.
- ⇒ Transport to veterinary facility as soon as possible for further treatment.



Antifreeze:

Signs: May or may not develop immediately depending on ingested dosage. Vomiting, stumbling, weakness, depression, and seizure. Progression to renal failure over time with drinking and urinating excessively, vomiting, loss of appetite, death.

Do:

- ⇒ Induce vomiting if ingestion is witnessed or discovered within two hours.
- ⇒ Seek veterinary attention immediately.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Leave antifreeze out where dogs can be exposed. They like it and will readily drink it.
- ⇒ Give activated charcoal. It is not necessary and not helpful.
- ⇒ Ignore ingestion of antifreeze. Very little antifreeze ingestion can result in permanent kidney damage and death.

Bleeding:

Do:

- ⇒ Apply direct pressure to bleeding area with cloth or gauze bandage.
- ⇒ If bandage becomes soaked with blood, add another on top of first.
- ⇒ Apply gauze or tape around bandage if necessary to continue pressure and allow for transport to a veterinary facility.
- ⇒ Elevate the bleeding area if not broken.
- ⇒ For abdominal internal bleeding as with penetrating wound, apply bandage at entry/exit wound and wrap abdomen with pressure bandage (tape, vet wrap) to decrease the available space into which blood can flow.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Remove gauze or cloth soaked with blood as you will break down the clot and allow bleeding to restart.
- ⇒ Wrap wound so tightly that you create a constricting band compromising circulation to the rest of the limb.
- ⇒ Use a tourniquet unless you are prepared to **lose** the affected leg.

Bloat:

Do:

- ⇒ Watch for stomach swelling (distended) and is hard to the touch.
- ⇒ This is an **EMERGENCY**, GO TO VETERINARIAN ASAP!!!!



Burns:

Do:

- ⇒ Look for singed hair, redness, blistering, or charring.
- ⇒ Look for swelling or pain present (tenderness).
- ⇒ Watch for liquids which often run under coat and burns are not evident
- ⇒ Muzzle before handling.
- ⇒ Treat minor burns with 20 minutes of running cool water on affected area, or apply a cold compress.
- ⇒ Clip hair around wound.
- ⇒ Treat as a superficial wound.
- ⇒ Remember severe wounds can lead to shock, take to emergency vet ASAP.
 - Keep animal quiet
 - Cold compresses if allowed, cover with gauze or cloth
 - Flush with cold water
 - **See Smoke Inhalation** if burn was acquired during fire.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Use ointment

Chemical Burns:

Do:

- ⇒ Watch for the burns on the mouth, lips, face and pads, occasionally ingested.
- ⇒ Wear gloves when handling.
- ⇒ Flush with cool water. Large volumes, RINSE, RINSE, RINSE!!!
- ⇒ Transport for follow up care.

Choking:

Signs: Usually related to difficulty breathing such as pawing at mouth, gagging, drooling, bluish color to lips and gum, and/or collapse.

Do:

- ⇒ Watch for foreign objects in mouth.
- ⇒ Open mouth.
- ⇒ Remove foreign objects with pliers or forceps.
- ⇒ Look between upper canines or molars.
- ⇒ Transport if required.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Get bitten!



Dental Injuries:

Do:

- ⇒ Have a fractured tooth checked within 12 hours to prevent loss of tooth.

Drowning:

Do:

- ⇒ Clear mouth of foreign material.
- ⇒ Hold hind legs up for a few seconds to help remove water.
- ⇒ Artificial respiration.
- ⇒ CPR.
- ⇒ Hold head down and rump up if vomits water.
- ⇒ Transport for follow up care.

Drugs:

Do:

- ⇒ Call Poison Control or the company for information.
- ⇒ Induce vomiting with hydrogen peroxide.

Don't:

- ⇒ Wait to see what will happen.



Electrical Shock:

Signs: Burns in mouth, feet, or other point of entry or exit of electricity, difficulty breathing, seizures, shock, collapse, death.

Do:

- ⇒ Pull the plug if electric cord is in dog's mouth before touching the dog.
- ⇒ Assess status and give CPR if indicated.
- ⇒ Apply cool compresses to burns.
- ⇒ Transport the dog to a veterinary facility immediately.

Eye Injury:

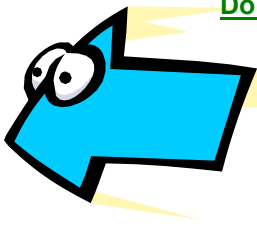
Signs: Redness in the eye, drainage from the eye, blood in the eye, bluish appearance to the cornea (clear part of eye), keeping the eye closed, swelling in or around the eye, protrusion of the eye.

Do:

- ⇒ Look at the eye for sign of penetration, laceration, protrusion, etc. Control bleeding with gentle direct pressure. Transport immediately to veterinary facility if present.
- ⇒ If foreign material is in the eye, but not penetrating, then flush the eye liberally with saline eyewash.
- ⇒ Transport as soon as possible to veterinary facility for evaluation for damage to the eye.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Wait too long. Eye injuries should be treated as soon as possible to prevent more severe damage. Increasing pressures and ulcerations in the eye can lead to permanent blindness if not treated.



Fractured Bone:

Signs: Sudden unwillingness to bear weight on a leg, swelling in affected area, possible penetration of bone through the skin.

Do:

- ⇒ Control bleeding fractures if penetrating the skin.
- ⇒ Limit movement.
- ⇒ Carry the dog if necessary to prevent further damage.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Handle or touch affected the area any more than is necessary. It is painful and you may get bitten.
- ⇒ Do not attempt to splint or bandage if assistance can be found in a reasonable amount of time. The dog most likely will limit his/her own movement of the area and be protective of the area. You may make it worse and you will certainly make it hurt if you move the area.

Head Trauma:

Signs: Obvious trauma to head such as abrasions, lacerations, etc., depression, staggering, circling, head tilt, fixed pupils (small or large), different sized pupils, seizure, coma, death.

Do:

- ⇒ Control bleeding.
- ⇒ Make a mental note of how dog was acting just after trauma.
- ⇒ Transport to veterinary facility for evaluation and observation.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Ignore head injury, even if signs are not immediately apparent. Head injuries may be progressive and should continue to be observed for change.

Heat Stroke:

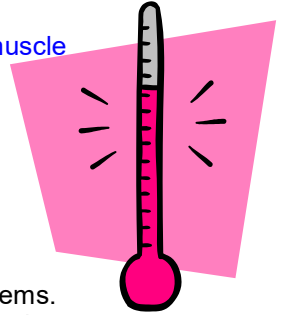
Signs: Body temperature over 105°F, heavy panting, salivation, lethargy, muscle tremors, collapse, loss of consciousness, and seizures.

Do:

- ⇒ Apply cool water to dog to **slowly** reduce body temperature.
- ⇒ Stop cooling when temperature reaches 103°F.
- ⇒ Transport to veterinary facility immediately.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Apply ice water. Rapid cooling is associated with coagulation problems.
- ⇒ Think the dog is safe when temperature is normal. Serious complications may follow and the dog must be monitored by a veterinarian.



Hot Spot:

Do:

- ⇒ Watch for moisture trapped underneath the hair.
- ⇒ Clip hair around affected area.
- ⇒ Wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- ⇒ Consult your veterinarian for topical or oral medications.

Lacerations:

Do:

- ⇒ Control bleeding.
- ⇒ Treat minor cuts with thorough cleaning and application of topical antibiotic ointment daily.
- ⇒ Understand deep cuts need to be evaluated and repaired by a veterinarian.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Delay treatment of wounds as it will result in infection.
- ⇒ Delay repair of deep wounds as wounds can not be sutured after they become old and contaminated.

Neck or Back Injury:

Signs: Pain, difficulty getting up, staggering or tripping when walking, paralysis, or unconsciousness.

Do:

- ⇒ If walking but having difficulty, limit movement and transport to veterinary facility as soon as possible.
- ⇒ If unable to get up, use extreme care in transport. Use a flat surface if possible to limit all movement. If no large flat surface is available, use a blanket with one person at each end.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Force the dog to try to get up or move his neck or back excessively if he is unconscious or unwilling/unable to move.

Pad Injuries:

Do:

- ⇒ Watch for a lot of bleeding, pads bleed easily.
- ⇒ Apply pressure to area
- ⇒ Bandage with gauze pad
- ⇒ Take to veterinarian ASAP – can have tendon injuries.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Apply tourniquet

Penetrating Wound:

Non-vital structure (leg, tail, etc.):

Do:

- ⇒ Control bleeding.
- ⇒ Monitor for shock.
- ⇒ Stabilize penetrating foreign body if still in place (arrow, stick, etc.). Cut ends if necessary to transport, but do not remove object.
- ⇒ Limit movement.
- ⇒ Transport to veterinary facility as soon as possible.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Remove penetrating foreign body unless necessary for transport. The foreign body may be controlling bleeding from a large vessel.

Abdomen or Chest:

Do:

- ⇒ Monitor for shock.
- ⇒ Administer CPR if necessary.
- ⇒ Control bleeding by direct pressure.
- ⇒ Stabilize penetrating foreign body if still in place (arrow, stick, etc.). Cut ends if necessary to transport, but do not remove object.
- ⇒ Wrap with bandage.
- ⇒ Limit movement.
- ⇒ Keep warm with blanket.
- ⇒ Transport to veterinary facility immediately.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Remove penetrating foreign body unless absolutely necessary for transport. The foreign body may be controlling bleeding from a large vessel, vital organ, etc. and may result in additional damage and bleeding upon removal.
- ⇒ Wrap the chest too tightly as this can restrict breathing.

Rat Poison: (Anticoagulant)



Signs: Usually no immediate signs.

Do:

- ⇒ Save the package from the rat poison and take it to a veterinary facility.
- ⇒ Induce vomiting with hydrogen peroxide.
 - Hydrogen peroxide – administer several tablespoons.
 - A turkey baster can work well to administer
- ⇒ Give activated charcoal tablets by mouth.
- ⇒ Transport the dog to a veterinary facility as soon as possible.

Removing Ticks:

Do:

- ⇒ Spray with flea spray if available, and wait 5 minutes to encourage release.
- ⇒ Avoid handling ticks with uncovered fingers (use gloves). Use tweezers or “Ticked off” designed for removal.
- ⇒ With steady slow motion, pull the tick away from the skin or slide the removal device along the skin. Do not jerk, crush, or puncture the skin.
- ⇒ After removal, place tick directly into a sealable container. Disinfect the area around the bite site using standard procedure.

Seizures:

Signs: Rhythmic episodes of rigid extension and flaccid relaxation. Unaware of surroundings and not responsive.

Do:

- ⇒ Stay calm.
- ⇒ Move animal to the floor gently
- ⇒ Transport to veterinary facility if seizure lasts more than 2 minutes or cluster seizures occur

Don't:

- ⇒ Panic.
- ⇒ Get bitten.

Shock:

Signs: Fast heartbeat, fast breathing, pale gums, weakness, dilated pupils, cold body temperature, unresponsive to unconscious state. Circulatory system failure due to trauma, bleeding, electric shock, dehydration, allergic reaction, or exposure/ingestion of toxic substance.

Do:

- ⇒ Cover with blanket or other to maintain body heat.
- ⇒ Transport the dog to a veterinary facility immediately.

Do not:

- ⇒ Waste time.

Snakebite Envenomation: (rattlesnake, cottonmouth, copperhead)

Signs: Pain and swelling at site of bite, bleeding, shock, death.

Do:

- ⇒ Keep the dog as still as possible. Movement will increase absorption of venom. Carry the dog to the car if possible.
- ⇒ Transport the dog to a veterinary facility immediately.
- ⇒ Take the dead snake with you for identification.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Wash the wound.
- ⇒ Apply ice.
- ⇒ Make cuts over the bite.
- ⇒ Apply a tourniquet.
- ⇒ Waste time



Smoke Inhalation:

Signs: Red eyes, drooling, nasal discharge, burns, difficulty breathing, pale, blue, or cherry red gums, unconsciousness, death.

Do:

- ⇒ Monitor for shock.
- ⇒ Administer CPR if necessary.
- ⇒ Transport to a veterinary facility as soon as possible.

Do Not:

- ⇒ Assume no injury has occurred if no immediate signs are obvious. Signs of damage may not occur for 12-24 hours after injury.

Sprains:

Signs: Soreness and swelling in the limb. May or may not bear weight on the limb.

Do:

- ⇒ Use caution in evaluating the leg. If it hurts, the dog may bite.
- ⇒ Look at and feel the leg from top to bottom carefully and slowly.
- ⇒ Observe that most fractures will be associated with swelling and severe pain at the fracture site.
- ⇒ Observe that most dogs won't bear weight on a broken bone unless in a high adrenaline situation.

Torn Nail:

Do:

- ⇒ Use toenail clippers and cut nail back above where it was torn. Make sure you MUZZLE the dog before doing so. This procedure can be painful
- ⇒ Apply styptic powder. If break is high in the nail, antibiotics may be needed.

Suggested First Aid Supplies

- Benadryl – select appropriate size for your pet. Dose is approx. 1 mg/#.
- Neosporin ointment
- Kwik Stop – to control bleeding toenails
- Zonas-Porus tape
- Small Towel
- Eye Wash
- Hydrogen Peroxide Solution
- Gloves
- Telfa Pads
- Conforming roll bandage/rolled gauze
- Appropriate size muzzle
- VetWrap
- Thermometer
- Bandage Scissors
- Tweezers or hemostats
- Cotton-tipped applicators
- Gauze pads/sponges
- Activated charcoal tablets
- Tongue depressors
- Cotton balls
- Toe Nail Clippers

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