



Pet Emergencies: Quick Reference Guide

*If your pet is ill or injured and needs immediate care, this guide will help you help your pet. **CAUTION: This guide is no substitute for veterinary care. You should also contact your veterinarian and/or an emergency clinic. Write their numbers here, and keep this guide where you can access it quickly. For questions, visit www.PetNeuro.com.***

My vet: _____ phone number _____ after hours number _____

Emergency clinic: _____ phone number _____ location _____

What to do if your pet is:

VOMITING

- Call your vet right away and you may consult the Animal Poison Control Center if you suspect contact with or ingestion of a toxin – 888-426-4435. Any toxic product on the skin or eyes should be rinsed promptly with fresh cold water. For the eyes, use a syringe or eye dropper. If the poison is consumed, read the labels. Sometimes you can induce vomiting with two or three tablespoons of hydrogen peroxide or a teaspoon of salt. Sometimes syrup of ipecac is helpful. However, some products can burn the esophagus when vomiting, so it is not advised to induce vomiting.

SEIZURING

- Ice pack the head and neck and keep pet away from objects that it might get hurt against. Do not try to reach near the mouth: they will bite you. Call the vet. If the seizure lasts more than 1-2 minutes, go to the vet or emergency clinic. Talk to your pet and try to keep them aware and conscious.

FRACTURE

- Muzzle your pet and splint the leg as best you can or strap the limb to a board, use a bandage to hold the splint in place

BLEEDING

- Muzzle your pet and use pressure on the bleeding. If the bleeding is from a leg and is severe, bandage the wound and apply a tourniquet above the wound. Rush to the vet or emergency clinic.
- For internal bleeding, keep animal quiet, transport to vet. Signs of internal bleeding include white gums, lethargy and rapid, shallow respiration.

Information provided courtesy of Veterinary Neuro Services, Sarasota, Fla. For questions, see www.PetNeuro.com. Always consult your veterinarian before treating your pet.

CHOKING

- Be careful because you can get bitten trying to remove an object from a pet's mouth. If still breathing, keep your pet quiet. If you can look in the mouth, do so and use something to hold its mouth open: a bottle cork for a cat or small dog or other similar item. Sometimes a roll of tape works great. Try to pull out object.
- If the pet collapses, you can use a quick firm pressure on the chest to push the object out. For cats or small dogs, hang them upside down from their back legs and firmly tap their chest to help the object drop.

HEAT STROKE

- Should not happen but it does – do not ice your pet down. Use a cool wet towel first, then a cold towel. Continue to rewrap with cold towels. You also can use a hose to water down the animal slowly. Too rapid changes in temperature can be just as dangerous as the heat stroke. Get to vet as soon as possible.

NO BREATHING OR NO HEART BEAT

- Rapid pressure on the chest right behind the elbow will help massage the heart. Pressure on the chest overall will help move air. You can do mouth to mouth with your pet. Get to the vet immediately.

Additional information is available online at the American Animal Hospital Association, www.aahanet.org, the American Red Cross, www.redcross.org, and the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, <http://vetmed.illinois.edu>.

First Aid Kit for Pets

It is just as important to have a first aid kit prepared and available for our pets as it is when one of our family member or guests gets hurt. Our family emergency kit does not contain what is needed for pets. Our pets have different requirements for medication and handling. Here is a list of the things you need in your pet first aid kit. Keep in mind all treatments and medications should be given in consultation with your vet. For questions, visit www.PetNeuro.com.

- Telephone numbers for your vet, veterinary specialists and emergency clinic.
- Gauze sponges. They do not have to be sterile. You can also use a very clean white, 100 percent cotton T-shirt cut into strips
- Gauze and/or string – can be used to tie splints or muzzle, tie beaks
- A muzzle or two and leashes – never assume your ordinarily gentle pet will not bite you if hurting Never muzzle if animal is vomiting or having seizures
- Activated charcoal – in case a poisonous substance is absorbed. Also milk of magnesia
- Triple antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin®
- Rubbing alcohol – best antiseptic. It stings, so watch your pet’s reaction
- Syringes: 5 cc, 12 cc and 20 cc
- Ace bandage, self-adhesive and non self-adhesive
- Petroleum jelly – this is good to protect wounds from dirt
- Sterile non adherent pads
- Pepto-Bismol™ tablets
- Pepcid® AC tablets
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Table salt
- Benadryl® capsules
- Eye flush
- Coated aspirin
- Medical tape and duct tape
- Bandage scissors
- Splints, wood pieces and tongue depressors – if possible stabilize injuries prior to moving. A carrier is a very good investment for smaller animals. Sometimes a board may be needed to immobilize a larger dog – use duct tape
- Vet wrap (stretch self stick) bandage
- Blankets
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers
- Pliers (to remove large objects or cut wires)
- Hemostats to stop bleeding
- Rectal thermometer
- Plastic zipper bags

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