

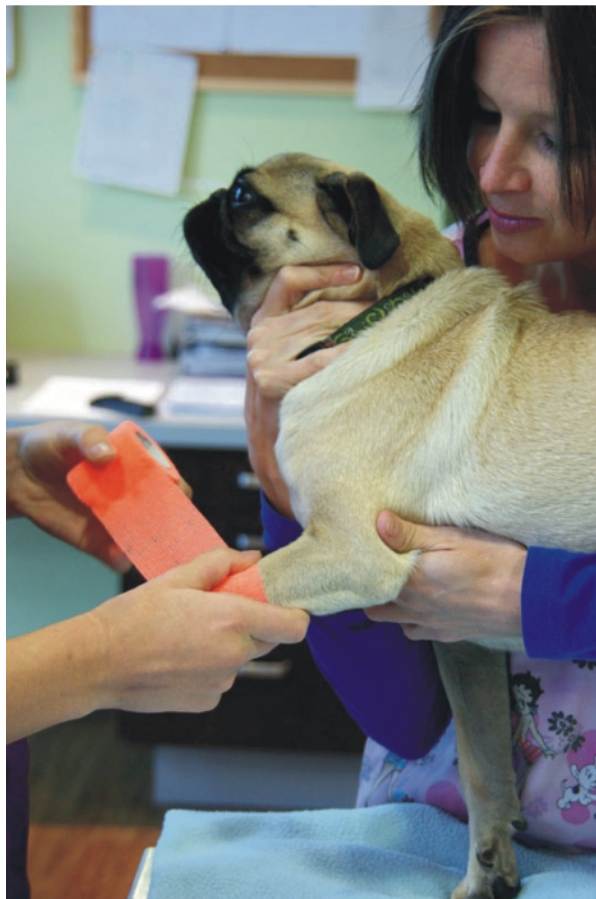
FIRST AID

To avoid the feelings of panic that may accompany an emergency situation with your dog or cat, we would like to cover some important ways to help prepare you for dealing with an animal medical emergency!

Pet first aid supplies checklist

As a pet owner, you need to make sure to have basic first aid supplies for your pets in your household. Carefully putting together a well-provisioned first aid kit will make you more ready to deal with a medical emergency if one confronts you for your dog, cat or other pet. Have this kit in the house and fully stocked with supplies at all times, next to the first aid kit for your family. Many of the items in a family first aid kit can be used for pets, too.

Basic tips for handling an injured pet



If your pet is injured, it could be in pain and is also most likely scared and confused. You need to be careful to avoid getting hurt, bitten or scratched. Never assume that even the gentlest pet will not bite or scratch if injured. Pain and fear can make animals unpredictable or even dangerous. Don't attempt to hug an injured pet, and always keep your face away from its mouth. Although this may be your first impulse to comfort your pet, it might only scare the animal more or cause them pain. Perform any examination slowly and gently. Stop if your animal becomes more agitated. Call your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary clinic before you move your pet so they can be ready for you when you arrive. If necessary and if your pet is not vomiting, place a muzzle on the pet to reduce the chances you'll be bitten. Dogs may be muzzled with towels, stockings or gauze rolls. Cats and other small animals may be wrapped in a towel to restrain them, but make sure your pet is not wrapped in the towel too tightly and its nose is uncovered so it can breathe.

NEVER muzzle your pet if it is vomiting.

If possible, try to stabilize injuries before moving an injured animal by splinting or bandaging them. While transporting your injured pet, keep it confined in a small area to reduce the risk of additional injury. Pet carriers work well, or you can use a box or other container (but make sure your pet has enough air). For larger dogs, you can use a board, toboggan/sled, door, throw rug, blanket or something similar to act as a stretcher. You should always keep your pet's medical records in a safe, easily accessible place. Bring these with you when you take your dog for emergency treatment.

Poisoning and Exposure to Toxins

Poisoning is a pet emergency that causes a great deal of confusion for pet owners. In general, any products that are harmful for people are also harmful for pets. Examples include cleaning products, rodent poisons and antifreeze. But, you also need to be aware of common food items that may be harmful to your pet:

Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine, Alcohol, Avocado, Macadamia Nuts, Grapes & Raisins, Yeast Dough, Xylitol, Onions, Garlic, Chives

Topical Toxin Contact

If your pet's skin or eyes are exposed to a toxic product (such as many cleaning products), check the product label for the instructions for people exposed to the product; if the label instructs you to wash your hands with soap and water if you're exposed, then wash your pet's skin with soap and water (don't get any into its eyes, mouth or nose). If the label tells you to flush the skin or eyes with water, do this for your pet as soon as possible (if you can do it safely), and call a veterinarian immediately.

Seizures

Keep your pet away from any objects (including furniture) that might hurt it. Do not try to restrain the pet. Time the seizure (they usually last 2-3 minutes). After the seizure has stopped, keep your pet as warm and quiet as possible and contact your veterinarian.

Fractures

Muzzle your pet. Gently lay your pet on a flat surface for support. While transporting your injured pet to a veterinarian, use a stretcher (you can use a board or other firm surface as a stretcher, or use a throw rug or blanket as a sling). If possible, secure the pet to the stretcher (make sure you don't put pressure on the injured area or the animal's chest) for transport—this may be as simple as wrapping a blanket around them. You can attempt to set the fracture with a homemade splint, but remember that a badly-placed splint may cause more harm than good. If in doubt, it is always best to leave the bandaging and splinting to a veterinarian.

Bleeding (external)

Muzzle your pet. Press a clean, thick gauze pad over the wound, and keep pressure over the wound with your hand until the blood starts clotting. This will often take several minutes for the clot to be strong enough to stop the bleeding. Instead of checking it every few seconds to see if it has clotted, hold pressure on it for a minimum of 3 minutes and then check it. If bleeding is severe and on the legs, apply a tourniquet (using an elastic band or gauze) between the wound and the body, and apply a bandage and pressure over the wound. Loosen the tourniquet for 20 seconds every 15-20 minutes. Severe bleeding can quickly be life-threatening—get your animal to a veterinarian immediately if this occurs.

Bleeding (internal)

Symptoms: bleeding from nose, mouth, rectum, coughing up blood, blood in urine, pale gums, collapse, weak and rapid pulse. Keep animal as warm and quiet as possible and transport immediately to a veterinarian.

Burns

Chemical Muzzle the animal. Flush burn immediately with large quantities of water. Severe Muzzle the animal. Quickly apply ice water compress to burned area.

Choking

Symptoms: difficulty breathing, excessive pawing at the mouth, choking sounds when breathing or coughing, blue-tinged lips/tongue. Use caution – a choking pet is more likely to bite in its panic. If the pet can still breathe, keep it calm and get it to a veterinarian. Look into the pet's mouth to see if a foreign object is visible. If you see an object, gently try to remove it with pliers or tweezers, but be careful not to push the object further down in the throat. Don't spend a lot of time trying to remove it if it's not easy to reach—don't delay, and get your pet to a veterinarian immediately. If you can't remove the object or your pet collapses, place both hands on the side of your pet's rib cage and apply firm quick pressure, or lay your pet on its side and strike the rib cage firmly with the palm of your hand 3-4 times. The idea behind this is to sharply push air out of their lungs and push the object out from behind. Keep repeating this until the object is dislodged or until you arrive at the veterinarian's office.



What to do if your pet is not breathing

Stay calm If possible, have another person call the veterinarian while you help your pet. Check to see if your pet is unconscious. Open your pet's airway by gently grasping its tongue and pulling it forward (out of the mouth) until it is flat. Check the animal's throat to see if there are any foreign objects blocking the airway (see the section above on Choking) Perform rescue breathing by closing your pet's mouth (hold it closed with your hand) and breathing with your mouth directly into its nose until you see the animal's chest expand. Once the chest expands, continue the rescue breathing once every 4 or 5 seconds.

What to do if your pet has no heartbeat

Do not begin chest compressions until you've secured an airway and started rescue breathing (see the section above, What to do if your pet is not breathing). Gently lay your pet on its right side on a firm surface. The heart is located in the lower half of the chest on the left side, just behind the elbow of the front left leg. Place one

FIRST AID, cont.

hand underneath the pet's chest for support and place the other hand over the heart. For dogs, press down gently on your pet's heart about one inch for medium-sized dogs; press harder for larger animals and with less force for smaller animals. To massage the hearts of cats and other tiny pets, cradle your hand around the animal's chest so your thumb is on the left side of the chest and your fingers are on the right side of the chest, and compress the chest by squeezing it between your thumb and fingers. Press down 80-120 times per minute for larger animals and 100-150 times per minute for smaller ones. Don't perform rescue breathing and chest compressions at the same exact time; alternate the chest compressions with the rescue breaths, or work as a team with another person so one person performs chest compressions for 4-5 seconds and stops long enough to allow the other person to give one rescue breath. Continue until you can hear a heartbeat and your pet is breathing regularly, or you have arrived at the veterinary clinic and they can take over the resuscitation attempts. Please remember that your pet's likelihood of surviving with resuscitation is very low. However, in an emergency it may give your pet its only chance.

FIRST AID KIT

Our First Aid Kit includes:

- Hibitane Antibacterial Cleanser
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Activated Charcoal
- Alcohol Swabs
- Dermagel Healing Salve
- Bandaging Supplies
- Acute Care Paste
- Reference materials on Kit products
- Wound treatment and bandaging guide
- Vomiting induction / poison/toxine guidelines



To make your pet safer, Healing Paws now sells the First Aid Kits, for only \$35.00!

PLEASE NOTE!

Always remember that any first aid administered to your pet should be followed by immediate veterinary care. First aid care is not a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until it receives veterinary treatment!

ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTRE:

A resource for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call (888) 426-4435. A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card.

