



Pet First Aid



Always notify your veterinarian when your pet has any type of emergency!

To protect yourself you may need to muzzle your pet: Use a strip of soft cloth, rope, necktie, or nylon stocking. Wrap around the nose, under the chin and tie behind the ears. Care must be taken when handling weak or injured pets. Even normally docile pets will bite when in pain. Allow the pet to pant after handling by loosening or removing the muzzle. Do not use a muzzle in a case of vomiting. **Cats and dogs with short noses are difficult to muzzle.** Throw a thick bath or beach towel over the pet to keep it contained. Cats can be placed in a pillow sack for transport.

If your pet can't walk: Place on a large blanket or quilt as a stretcher.

Bites If bitten by another animal, be very careful when you approach your pet. He or she may bite you in fear. Next, check wound to see if there is any debris in it. If there is dirt or debris in the bite, clean it with saline. If you do not have saline, use regular water. Next, wrap the wound loosely to keep it clean. If the wound is bleeding badly you should apply pressure to it.

Breathing Stops Place the animal on firm surface with left side up. Check for a heartbeat by listening at the area where the elbow touches the chest. If you hear a heartbeat but not breathing, close the animal's mouth & breathe directly into its nose—not the mouth—until the chest expands. Repeat 12 to 15 times per minute. If there is no pulse, apply heart massage at the same time. The heart is located in the lower half of the chest, behind elbow of the front left leg. Place one hand below heart to support chest. Place other hand over the heart and compress gently. To massage the hearts of cats & other tiny pets, compress the chest with the thumb & forefingers of one hand. Apply heart massage 80-120 times per minute for larger animals and 100-150 per minute for smaller ones. Alternate heart massage with breathing.

Burns (chemical, electrical, or heat) If the animal has large quantities of dry chemicals on its skin, brush them off. For other types of burns, flush the burn immediately with large amounts of cool, running water. Do not place an ice pack directly on the skin.

Choking Pets may choke if panicking. Clearing throat can be very difficult unless pet is unconscious. If possible, look into the mouth to see if foreign object in throat is visible. Clear the airway by removing the object. If it is lodged too deep or if the pet collapses, then place your hands on both sides of the animal's rib cage and apply firm, quick pressure. Repeat this procedure several times. Unfortunately, the Heimlich maneuver rarely works. Get to the veterinarian's office as quickly as possible.

Diarrhea No food for 12-24hrs. Mix Pedialyte or other electrolyte solution with water to supply electrolytes.

Fractures Look for bleeding. Control bleeding without causing more injury. Watch for signs of shock. **DO NOT TRY TO SET THE FRACTURE** by pulling or tugging on the limb. Transport pet to the veterinarian immediately, supporting injured part as best you can.

Heatstroke Place animal in water or gently soaking with water from a garden hose or pouring rubbing alcohol onto the pet will simulate sweating and help reduce body temperature. Do not overcool the animal. Stop cooling when rectal temperature reaches 103 °F.

Seizures Move the pet away from any objects that could be harmful during the seizure. Use a blanket for padding & protection. Do not restrain the pet during the seizure. Time the seizure. They usually last only 2 to 3 minutes. Afterwards, keep the animal calm and quiet.

Shock Shock may occur as a result of a serious injury or fright. Keep the animal gently restrained, quiet, and warm, with the lower body elevated.

Vomiting Withhold food for 12-24 hours. Give the pet ice cubes for two hours after vomiting stops, then slowly increase the amount of water and foods given over a 24-hour period.

Poisoning

Call your veterinarian or
Animal Poison Hotline **1-888-232-8870** or
Animal Poison Control Center **1-888-426-4435**
immediately. (A fee may be applied to credit card)

They will need to know:

- Exact name** of the plant or poison.
- How much** the animal ate or came in contact with.
- How long ago** exposure or ingestion occurred.
- The animal's weight.**
- The animal's vital signs** (temperature, heart rate, breathing rate, and mucous membrane color)

Removing poison from skin

If poison is a powder, you need to dust or vacuum it off. Otherwise, wash the animal with large volumes of water. Reactions to flea product, use mild handsoap or shampoo. If oil-based, like petroleum products, use dishwashing liquids. If in the eye, flush with large volumes of water.

If poison was inhaled

Take the animal to fresh air or cool circulating air immediately.

If poison was swallowed

Call your vet or National Animal Poison Control FIRST
Record what the pet ingested and how much if known. Treatment depends on the poison and is decided on a case by case basis. Some caustic substances, milk may be needed or you may need to induce vomiting.

How to induce vomiting

1 teaspoon hydrogen peroxide per 30 lbs body weight; give once, repeat after ten minutes; no more than 3 times

Always assume a plant is harmful unless you know that it is not. Common plants harmful to pets:

Aloe	Amaryllis	Azalea
Baby's Breath	Bird of Paradise	Carnation
Cactus	Clematus	Coleus
Corn Plant	Crocus	Daffodil
Daisy	Dracaena	Dieffenbachia
Geranium	Hibiscus	Holly
Hyacinth	Hydrangea	Iris
Jade Plant	Lilies	Marijuana
Mistletoe	Morning Glory	Narcissus
Oleander	Onion	Philodendron
Poison Ivy	Poison Oak	Primrose
Rhododendron	Rubber Plant	Schefflera
Tulip	Wandering Jew	Yucca

Many types of Ivys, Lilies (to mostly cats), Mums and Seeds (fruit) also

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