

# Pet First Aid

**Always notify your veterinarian  
in any type of pet emergency!**

## **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.

## **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.

**Choking** Pets may bite 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.