

PET FIRST AID GUIDE

Essential care for your companion



Introduction to Pet First Aid

Being prepared for pet emergencies is crucial for every dog owner. This simple and short information will equip you with the knowledge and skills to provide immediate care to your dog in various emergency situations. Remember, **first aid is not a always substitute for veterinary care**, but it can stabilize your pet until professional help is available. Always consult your veterinarian as soon as possible after administering first aid.

Essential First Aid Supplies

- Adhesive tape
- Gauze pads and rolls
- Antiseptic wipes
- Bandage scissors
- Tweezers
- Digital thermometer
- Hydrogen peroxide (at home)
- Saline solution
- Emergency blanket (optional)
- Muzzle (optional)
- Charcoal Or Zeolite

Having a well-stocked DOGTA Pet first aid kit is essential for any dog owner. Keep it in an easily accessible location on a leash, back pack or in the car, make sure everyone in the family knows where it is.

Important Considerations/Tips

- Check expiration dates regularly.
- Replace used or expired items promptly.
- You can customize the kit to your dog's specific needs (e.g., medications).

Common Pet Emergencies & How to Respond

Here are some of the most common pet emergencies and the first aid steps you can take:

Wounds and Bleeding

1. **Assess the situation:** Check the severity of the wound and the amount of bleeding.

2. **Apply direct pressure:** Use a clean cloth or gauze pad to apply firm, direct pressure to the wound for several minutes.
3. **Elevate the injured area:** If possible, elevate the wound above the heart to help slow the bleeding.
4. **Clean the wound:** Once the bleeding is under control, gently clean the area with mild antiseptic solution Or saline liquid/wipe. **Avoid using harsh chemicals or alcohol.**
5. **Bandage the wound:** Apply a sterile bandage to protect the wound and keep it clean.

Important: Seek veterinary attention immediately for deep wounds, severe bleeding, or wounds that don't stop bleeding after applying pressure.

Choking

1. **Check the airway:** Look inside your dog's mouth to see if you can identify the object.
2. **Attempt to remove the object:** If you can see the object and it is easily accessible, gently try to remove it with your fingers or tweezers, or the hook and scoop with your fingers
3. **Heimlich maneuver (small dogs):** Hold the dog upside down and give a firm thrust below the ribs.
4. **Heimlich maneuver (large dogs):** Place the dog on its side and kneel behind it. Place your fist below the ribs and give a firm upward thrust.

If your dog is choking, it's crucial to act quickly.

Warning: Be careful not to get bitten when reaching into your dog's mouth.

Follow-up: Even if you successfully dislodge the object, it's essential to call or take your dog to the veterinarian for a check-up to ensure there are no further complications.

Heatstroke

1. **Move to a cool place:** Immediately move your dog to a shaded or air-conditioned area.
2. **Cool down:** Apply cool (not ice-cold) water to your dog's body, especially the groin, armpits, and paws. You can also use a fan to help with cooling.
3. **Offer water:** Provide small amounts of cool water to drink, but don't force it.
4. **Monitor temperature:** Take your dog's temperature rectally every few minutes. Aim to bring it down to 103°F (39.4°C).

Important: Heatstroke can be fatal. Seek veterinary attention immediately, even if your dog seems to be recovering.

Poisoning

1. **Identify the poison:** If possible, identify what your dog ingested.
2. **Contact your veterinarian or a poison control center immediately.** Follow their instructions carefully. Do not induce vomiting unless specifically instructed to do so.
3. **Bring the poison container with you to the vet.**

4. **If you know what your dog has ingested and its not dangerous, however it can cause discomfort or issues, feed them 1-2 capsule of charcoal, place at the back of tongue, hold gentle the snout closed and rub throat until they swallow.**

Note: Never induce vomiting if your dog is unconscious, having difficulty breathing, or has ingested a corrosive substance.

Seizures

1. **Protect your dog from injury:** Move any objects that could harm your dog during the seizure.
2. **Do not restrain your dog:** Allow the seizure to run its course.
3. **Time the seizure:** Note the duration of the seizure.
4. **Speak calmly and reassuringly to your dog.**
5. **Contact your veterinarian after the seizure:** Describe the seizure in detail, including its duration and any unusual behavior.

Important: If the seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes, or if your dog has multiple seizures in a row, seek immediate veterinary attention.

Preventing Emergencies

- Keep household cleaners, medications, and other potential toxins out of reach.
- Supervise your dog when outdoors, especially in unfamiliar areas.
- Be aware of potential hazards in your home and yard.
- Ensure your dog has access to fresh water and shade, especially during hot weather.
- Regularly check your dog for any signs of illness or injury.
- Always carry a DOGTA Kit for reassurance that you can perform first aid efficiently and quickly.

Conclusion

By understanding basic pet first aid principles, you can provide crucial assistance to your dog in emergency situations. Remember that *first aid is not always a replacement for professional veterinary care in emergencies*, but it can buy you valuable time and potentially save your dog's life. We hope this information sheet has provided you with the essential information and confidence to act quickly and effectively in a pet emergency. Keep your first aid kit well-stocked and your veterinarian's contact information readily available. Your preparedness with DOGTA can make all the difference!