

First-Aid for you Pet

It is often difficult to know what constitutes an emergency, but whether the situation requires an immediate visit to the veterinarian or can wait a day, every pet-owning household should have a first-aid kit available. When traveling, and veterinary care might be unavailable in the area, a first-aid kit can also be very valuable. During a perceived emergency, it's normal to be emotionally upset and not thinking clearly. So, having the means to treat common conditions can keep pet-owners calm while they assess the situation, which ultimately benefits both you and your veterinarian.

These are medical emergencies. Call your veterinarian!

- Difficulty breathing
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Unable to urinate
- Continuous or unproductive vomiting
- Constant diarrhea
- Seizure activity
- Unconsciousness
- Paralysis
- Hypothermia (not warm enough)
- Hyperthermia (too warm)



It is important not to wait too long before addressing a problem, especially if it's close to a holiday or weekend when your veterinary hospital is closed.

When a dog or cat has a non-emergency situation occur, often a pet owner can use items from a first-aid kit to either solve the problem or make the pet comfortable until seen by a doctor.

Your first-aid kit should contain these items:

- Bandages and tape
- Ice pack material (frozen peas and/or corn work well!)
- Slip lead
- Towel or blanket
- Oral syringes (to give liquid medication)
- Styptic powder (to stop toenail bleeds)
- Digital thermometer
- Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting)
- Antibiotic cream (for superficial cuts and abrasions)
- Saline (for flushing the eyes)
- Pepto Bismol (for minor diarrhea)
- Buffered Aspirin (never Tylenol, Advil, ibuprofen, etc)
- Benadryl tablets (for itching and swelling)
- Honey or Karo syrup (for diabetic pets)
- Medications for your pet's specific conditions
- Your vet's phone number and the number for the nearest animal emergency hospital



Call your veterinarian for guidance and doses, and keep a written reminder of prescribed amounts in case future treatment is needed.