

FIRST AID AND YOUR PET

Preventing an emergency with your pet can sometimes be easily accomplished by knowing some of the common household dangers. Keeping harmful items out of your pet's reach could be a life saver. There are a multitude of things in your home that your pet could get into that may potentially be harmful. Simply making these items inaccessible can avoid serious health problems. Some of the more common items that we are concerned about are: household cleaners, garbage, electrical cords, medications, poisonous plants, insecticides, rodenticides, fish hooks or lures, Christmas ornaments and tinsel, antifreeze, string, ribbon or thread and any number of objects that your pet may find interesting or tasty enough to eat.

Consult your veterinarian if possible to help you handle an emergency situation. If your veterinarian is not available, your local veterinary emergency hospital should be available to help you. In case of poisoning, you may consult the ASPCA poison control center at (900) 680-0000 (there is a fee for this service.) Keeping a first aid kit for your pet could save valuable time in an emergency situation. Your kit should include:

BANDAGING MATERIALS

Adhesive tape, gauze roll, gauze pads, sterile Telfa pads.

SMALL SCISSORS

Can be used to trim fur away from lacerations or to cut bandaging materials.

THERMOMETER

Rectal thermometer, inexpensive digital thermometers work well. A small container of Vaseline works well as a lubricant. The normal temperatures in dogs and cats ranges from 101 to 102 degrees.

EYE WASH

Sterile eye wash can be used to rinse the eyes if your pet gets sprayed by a skunk, or if irritation from a foreign material occurs.

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

May be given orally to induce vomiting.

KWIK STOP POWDER

Can be purchased through your veterinarian or pet store to stop bleeding from cut or broken nails.

ANISEPTIC OINTMENT & SOLUTION

Neosporin ointment, betadine or nolvasan solutions are all good for minor cuts and abrasions.

ANTI-GAS & ANTI-DIARRHEAL MEDICINE

Di-Gel can be used for colic or excessive gas. PeptoBismal or Immodium are good antidiarrheals.

BENADRYL

This is given for allergic reactions to bee stings, or other local allergic reactions. Give one 25mg tablet for each 25 pounds of body weight orally. Consult your veterinarian immediately.

ASPRIN OR ASCRIPTIN – DOGS ONLY

Can be given for minor sprains or arthritic conditions, should not be given if your pet is vomiting or has any bleeding wounds. Only give 1 to 2 doses and consult your veterinarian as soon as possible. Continued use of these products could be detrimental to your dogs' health. Please make sure you use an aspirin product.

Tylenol (Acetaminophen) or Naproxen are very toxic to cats! Never give them!

If your pet is hit by a car or has severe injuries, please be careful. An animal in pain may bite even his/her owner. A soft rope, nylon stocking or a long piece of your roll gauze can easily be tied around your pet's mouth for a muzzle. If your pet needs immediate medical attention, apply a muzzle, quickly apply temporary bandages to control any bleeding, keep him/her warm, and call your veterinarian or nearest veterinary facility to let them know you are on your way. If needed, you can slide your pet onto a large blanket or sheet to use as a stretcher.

POISON CONTROL

(800) 764-7661

ASPCA POISON CONTROL (FEE)

(900) 680-0000

