

Basic First Aid for Dogs

Essential Items for Your Dog First Aid Kit



- **Bandages:** Self-adhesive or crepe bandage (5 cm width), conforming/open-weave bandages (2.5 cm width).
- **Dressings:** Non-adhesive absorbent dressings (5 cm x 5 cm).
- **Tape:** Surgical sticky tape.
- **Cotton Wool:** A box for cleaning and dressing wounds.
- **Gauze:** Sterile absorbent gauze.
- **Scissors:** Blunt-ended, preferably curved.
- **Towel:** A thick towel for various uses.
- **Elizabethan Collar:** To prevent licking or biting at wounds.

Emergency Situations

1. **Stay Calm:** Ensure your safety and assess the situation. Injured animals may bite.
2. **Contact the Vet:** Always call your vet first for advice. Keep their number handy.
3. **Muzzle if Necessary:** If there's a risk of biting, use a muzzle or a towel wrap (except if breathing is impaired).
4. **Avoid Human Medications:** Never give human medicines to dogs; do not offer food or drink unless directed by a vet.
5. **Transport Carefully:** Drive safely when taking your dog to the vet.

When to Call the Vet

- Weakness or reluctance to get up.
- Difficulty breathing or continuous coughing.
- Repeated vomiting, especially in young or elderly dogs.
- Severe pain or discomfort.
- Inability to urinate or defecate.
- Sudden balance difficulties.
- Agitation in nursing bitches (could indicate eclampsia).



First Aid for Specific Situations

Road Accidents

- Talk gently to the dog and move slowly.
- If the dog can walk, take them to the vet.
- If not, use a coat or blanket as a stretcher.

Bleeding

- Keep the dog calm. Apply a tight bandage or a clean pad to the wound. Seek vet assistance immediately.

Broken Bones

- Control bleeding but avoid splinting; it may cause more pain. Confine the dog for transport.

Burns and Scalds

- Rinse with cold water for at least five minutes, then contact the vet. Avoid ointments.

Poisoning

- Gather packaging of the substance and call the vet. Do not induce vomiting unless instructed.

Swollen Tummy

- This can indicate a twisted stomach; contact the vet immediately.

Choking

- If a ball is stuck, try to push it out from the outside. If the dog is collapsing, perform the Heimlich manoeuvre.

Heat Stroke

- Move to a cool area, wet the coat with tepid water, and contact the vet. Offer small sips of water.

Seizures

- Do not hold or comfort the dog. Move hazards away, darken the room, and call the vet.

Dog Fights

- If the dog is shocked or injured, consult a vet. Look for puncture wounds, especially on the head or body.

Eye Injuries

- Flush the eye with water and call the vet if chemicals are involved or if it bulges out.

Drowning

- Wipe the mouth/nose and hold the dog upside down to drain water. Perform CPR if needed.

Electric Shock

- Turn off the power first. If impossible, use a non-metallic item to push the dog away. Call the vet immediately.

Stings

- Remove the sting if possible, clean the area, and apply ice. Seek vet care if stung in the mouth/throat.



Basic Dog Resuscitation

1. **Position:** Place the dog on their side.
2. **Check Breathing:** Look for signs or hold a wisp of fur to their nostrils.
3. **Clear Obstructions:** Open the mouth and pull the tongue forward.

4. **Artificial Respiration:** If breathing has stopped, blow into the nose about 20 times per minute.
5. **Chest Compressions:** If there's no heartbeat, push on the chest just behind the front legs every second.
6. **Rescue Breaths:** Give two breaths for every 15 compressions.

Conclusion

In any emergency, the first step is to stay calm and ensure safety. Contact your vet for guidance, and keep a well-stocked first aid kit for your dog to handle common situations effectively. Regular check-ups and preventive measures can significantly reduce emergencies.