

# ***Pet First Aid***



**AMERICAN SAFETY  
& HEALTH INSTITUTE**





# Pet First Aid™

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ASHI is an association of professional educators providing nationally-recognized training programs across the United States and in several foreign countries. ASHI's mission is to continually improve safety and health education by promoting high standards for members, principals of sound research for curriculum development and the professional development of safety and health instructors worldwide.

*This student reference manual has been reviewed by an ASHI Program Advisory Committee (PAC) and approved by the Board of Directors. It is an essential part of the American Safety & Health Institute's programmed instruction. By itself, it does not represent complete training.*

## Guidelines and Accreditation

ASHI has made every effort to ensure that information contained within this text is consistent with current and accepted guidelines including International Guidelines 2000 for CPR and ECC Circulation. 2000; 102:I-1. ©2000 American Heart Association®, Inc. Science and technology are constantly creating new knowledge and practice in safety and health education. This program is intended to give suggestions as to the proper procedures and protocols. The circumstances of each incident often vary widely. Guidelines for safety and emergency care cannot be given that will apply exactly in all cases. If local or organizational guidelines, practice protocols or scientific data differ from treatment guidelines in any ASHI program — local, physician-directed protocol should supersede ASHI guidelines.

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***Technical support and certification for this program has ended.  
Use these materials at your own risk.***

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction To Pet First Aid .....	2	Environmental Emergencies .....	24
Approaching an Ill or Injured Animal.....	2	Critter Bites and Encounters .....	24
Emergency Scene Safety .....	2	• Animal Bites .....	24
Infection Control .....	2	• Fleas .....	24
Restraints .....	3	• Flying Insect Envenomation .....	25
Initial Assessment .....	4	• Porcupine Quills .....	25
Assess, Alert, Attend .....	4	• Skunk Encounter.....	25
Rescue Breathing.....	5	• Snakebites .....	26
Choking .....	5	• Spider Bites.....	27
Checking for Animal's Heartbeat .....	6	• Tick Bites .....	27
Steps of CPR .....	7	• Parasites (Toxoplasmosis) .....	28
Bleeding Control .....	8	• Worms .....	29
Shock .....	9	Cold-Related Emergencies .....	30
Pet Loss and Bereavement Support.....	9	Heat-Related Emergencies .....	31
Injuries to Muscles and Bones .....	10	Drowning.....	31
Mechanism of Injury .....	10	Common Pet Illnesses or Conditions.....	32
Physical Assessment (Head-to-Toe Exam).....	10	Allergies .....	32
Head, Neck and Back Injuries .....	11	Arthritis .....	32
Limb Injuries .....	11	Automobile Antifreeze Poisoning.....	32
Soft Tissue Injuries and Wound Care.....	12	Birthing Difficulties .....	33
Penetrating Objects.....	12	After Birthing.....	33
Puncture .....	12	Bloat .....	34
Chest/Lung Puncture .....	12	Canine Parvovirus .....	34
Avulsion.....	12	Chocolate Poisoning .....	34
Fish Hook Penetration.....	13	Conjunctivitis .....	34
Closed Wounds .....	14	Dehydration.....	35
Bandaging an Open Wound.....	14	Distemper .....	35
Burns .....	15	Ear Infection.....	35
• Heat Burn .....	15	Feline Calicivirus and Herpesvirus .....	36
• Chemical Burn .....	16	Feline Leukemia.....	36
• Electrical Burn .....	16	Rabies.....	36
Eye Injuries.....	17	Respiratory Distress .....	37
• Particle(s) in the Eye.....	17	Seizures .....	37
• Chemical Splashed in the Eye .....	17	Smoke Inhalation .....	37
• Lacerations of the Eyelid .....	17	Urinary Tract Blockage.....	37
• Lacerations of the Eyeball .....	18	Additional Information .....	38
• Protruding Object in the Eye .....	18	General Warning Signs and Symptoms .....	38
• Eyeball Out of Socket.....	18	Pet First Aid Kit Contents.....	38
Medical Emergencies.....	19	What Is Normal for My Pet? .....	38
General Poisoning.....	19	Administering Medication .....	39
Corrosive Poison.....	20	How to Induce Vomiting.....	39
Volatile Poison .....	20	The Well Being of Your Pet.....	39
Non-Corrosive/Non-Volatile Poison.....	20		
Absorbed Poison .....	21		
Inhaled Poison .....	21		
Common Poison Substances .....	22		
Severe Allergic Reaction (Anaphylactic Shock).....	23		
Electric Shock.....	23		

# INTRODUCTION TO PET FIRST AID

Pet first aid is the immediate care given to an injured or suddenly ill pet as temporary assistance until competent veterinary care is available. Properly applied first aid can save your pet's life, reduce recovery time and be the difference between temporary disability and lifelong disability. This program concentrates on basic first aid care. It is not intended to replace veterinary care, but rather to instruct the pet owner on how to save a pet's life during an emergency or to minimize a pet's trauma after an injury.

In addition to basic emergency care, we will cover some common illnesses and other problems that your pet may be exposed to. Although first aid is important, nothing can replace good nutrition, regular veterinary check-ups, a safe environment and, of course, your love and devotion for your pet.

**NOTE:** This program will primarily refer to dogs and cats. However, first aid applications for most pets are similar.

## APPROACHING AN ILL OR INJURED ANIMAL

Always approach an ill or injured animal with great caution. Even your own usually loving pet may bite, kick or scratch out of fear, pain, or because it is confused and disoriented.

*During your approach:*

- Remain calm and be reassuring.
- Observe warning signs.

Injured or ill pets may growl, hiss, snarl, viciously bark, put ears back, raise hair on back, stoop down and show teeth, etc. Fear aggression in these situations is also a problem. Fearful animals may be trying to get away from you, have their tail between the legs or even be anxiously wagging the tail (giving a false appearance of being friendly). Responders are more likely to be bit by fearful than vicious animals.

**Do not approach. Call for help.**

### EMERGENCY SCENE SAFETY

An emergency is an unforeseen event or condition that requires a prompt response. In the event of an emergency, you must always remember to assess the emergency scene for your own safety, as well as for the safety of other bystanders. Too many "would-be" rescuers are injured or killed because of attempts to provide care in an unsafe situation.

Moving traffic, downed power lines, sharp items, fire and potentially explosive gas leaks are all examples of hazardous conditions that may be present at an emergency scene. If the scene is unsafe, stay away, call 911 and warn others of danger.

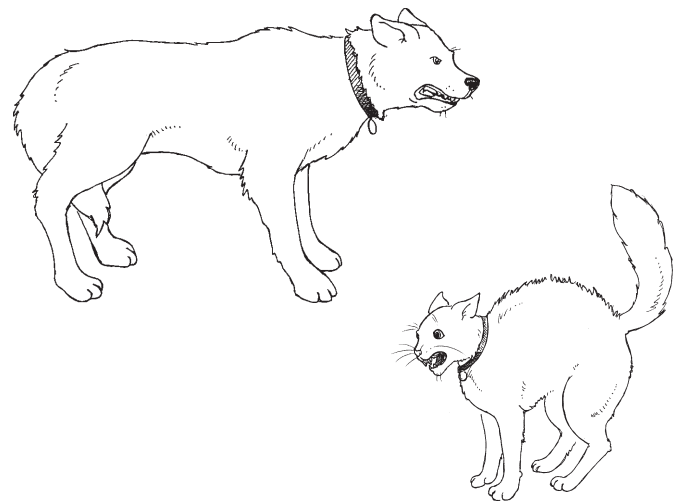
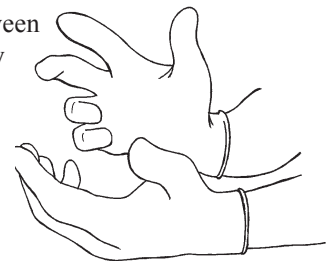
### INFECTION CONTROL

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) identifies a practice called "standard precautions" as the means that should be employed to prevent infection via bloodborne pathogens (bacterial and viral agents that may be in body fluids).

Simply stated, standard precautions means: all blood and certain body fluids that may contain blood should be considered potentially infectious, and precautions should be taken to protect yourself against them.

**To reduce the risk of infection, you should:**

- Always place a barrier between you and the animal's body fluids. (For example, latex or vinyl gloves and eyewear. Always keep a few pairs of gloves in your automobile.)
- Cover all scrapes, cuts, hangnails, rashes, etc.
- Minimize the splashing of body fluids.
- Handle any sharp object with extreme caution.
- Not handle food, tobacco products or make-up when around body fluids.
- Ensure that body fluid spills are cleaned, and area is properly disinfected.
- Wash hands or any exposed area immediately and thoroughly after you provide care or clean spill.





## RESTRAINTS

### Muzzle Use

If the pet is a dog or an animal with a long snout, it may require a muzzle to prevent injury to yourself or others providing assistance. Using a muzzle in this type of situation is not considered cruel and will not hurt the animal if done correctly. Commercial muzzles are available for cats and short-nosed dogs. However, in an emergency a looped muzzle works well and can be made with a leash, necktie, pantyhose, ace bandage or belt. You should use a wrap that is approximately three feet (3') in length.

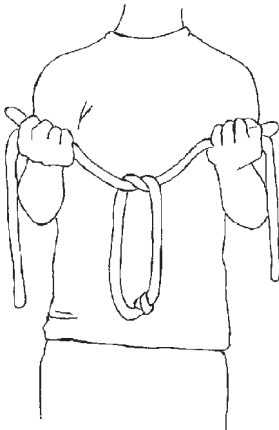
How to make a muzzle:

1. Loop wrap around center of animal's jaws just above nose. Tie a half-knot above upper jaw.
2. Make several additional loops around jaws.
3. Bring the two remaining loose ends behind the ears from under the chin and tie them together securely in a bow knot.

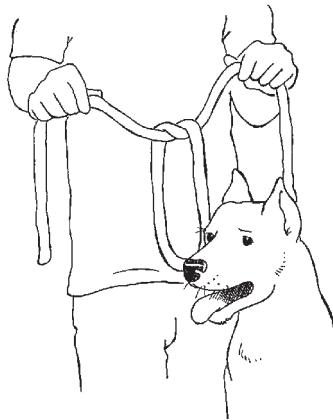
\*Do not muzzle an animal that is unconscious, vomiting or having a hard time breathing and do not attempt to muzzle a pet with obvious jaw or facial trauma.

### MUZZLE APPLICATION

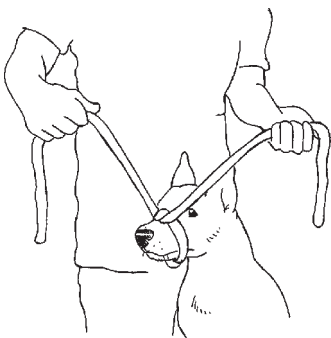
#### STEP 1



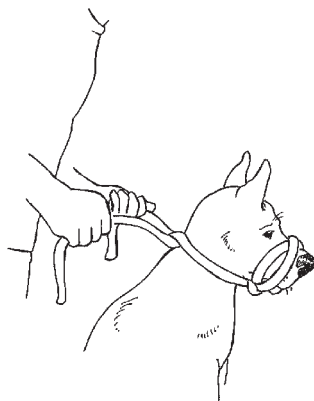
#### STEP 2



#### STEP 3



#### STEP 4



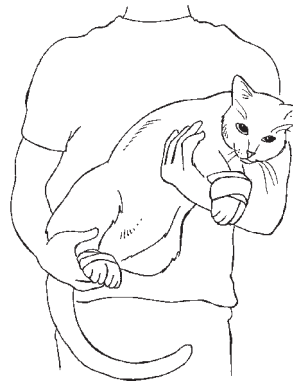
### Towel or Blanket Use

If the animal has a short snout and a muzzle is inappropriate or unavailable, you can use a towel, blanket or coat to cover animal. You should wrap entire animal. Make sure there is a sufficient opening for airflow.



### Ankle Straps for Clawing Animals

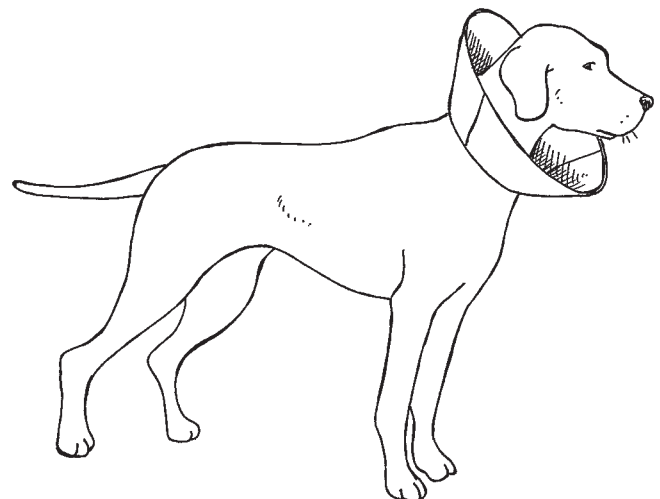
Although rarely necessary, animals that have claws may need their ankles tied together before you can safely care for them. This is referred to as hobbling. Application of the straps may put the rescuer in danger of being scratched and causes more stress on the animal than is usually necessary. A blanket is often the best alternative.



**Do not do this if the animal has a painful, swollen or deformed limb or you suspect a fracture.**

### Elizabethan Collar

An Elizabethan collar creates a barrier that keeps a pet from scratching at its head with leg or from chewing or licking its body. These collars may be purchased at pet stores, or you can make one. If you choose to make one, you can use a plastic flowerpot, a bucket, a small wastebasket, a round piece of plastic or cardboard. Cut out a hole in the bottom or middle about the size of animal's head. Then lace a string or light rope alternately through holes made in collar with pet's personal collar.



# INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Initial Assessment is the first assessment of the emergency scene and the ill or injured animal. It is a quick method designed to prevent injury to the rescuer and to allow for assessment and care of **life-threatening** problems involving a pet's airway, breathing or circulation (ABCs). The Initial Assessment in animals is similar to that used in suddenly ill or injured humans. Problems or conditions not directly related to the ABC (such as painful, swollen or deformed limbs and minor wounds) should be evaluated only after performing Initial Assessment and care.

Initial Assessment can be separated into three basic steps:

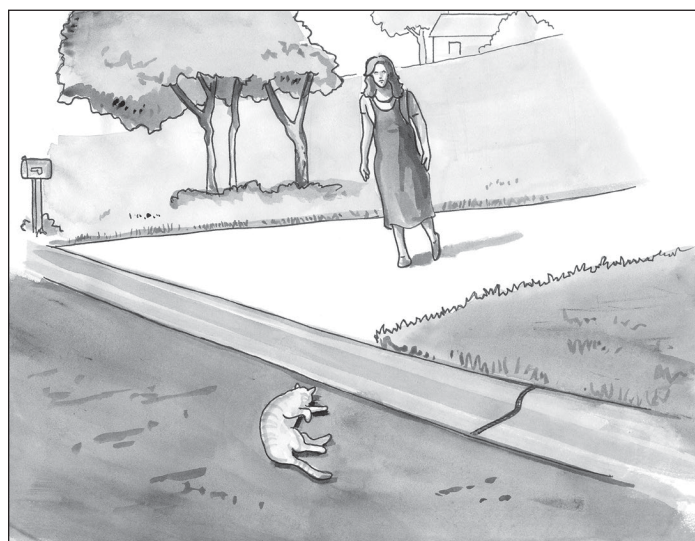
1. *Assess* (scene and responsiveness)
2. *Alert* (authorities or an animal health care professional)
3. *Attend* (to pet's ABCs)

## Assess - Alert - Attend

### ASSESS



1. Assess the emergency scene for safety.  
Is it safe to approach pet?
  - If scene is not safe, stay away!
  - If scene is safe, approach slowly and speak in a calm, reassuring tone.
2. Assess responsiveness.  
If the animal is unresponsive,  
**ALERT & ATTEND**



### ALERT



1. Notify authorities or an animal health care professional.
2. A bystander should call a veterinarian immediately, but this should NOT delay delivery of first aid or transport to a veterinary hospital.

### ATTEND TO THE ABCs



#### AIRWAY

1. Gently tilt the animal's head backward to **open** the airway.
2. Quickly inspect mouth and remove any fluids or solid material.

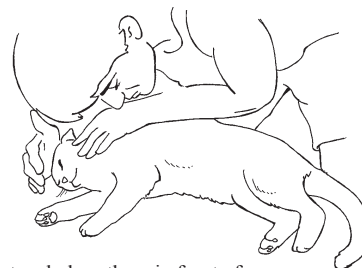


#### BREATHING

1. **LOOK** for chest to rise and fall.
2. **LISTEN** for breathing.
3. **FEEL** for breath on your cheek.\*
  - If breathing is absent or seems inadequate, give two rescue breaths (see Rescue Breathing on page 5) and assess circulation.
  - If pet is breathing, maintain normal body temperature and arrange transport to veterinary hospital.

#### CIRCULATION

- If pet does not start breathing or moving, or the heartbeat is **ABSENT**, start CPR (see Steps of CPR on page 7).
- If breathing, moving or heartbeat is **PRESENT**, check for *and* control major bleeding.



#### CAUTION!

You may need to restrain the animal before you can safely provide further assessment or care.

**\*NOTE:** If you are uncertain if the animal is breathing, try pulling a few hairs from the animal's coat and place them in front of the nose and/or mouth. Movement of those hairs will identify an open airway and the presence of breathing. The normal breathing rate is 10–20 breaths per minute. Inadequate or absent breathing can be recognized by very slow, very weak, shallow or irregular breaths which are often accompanied by a bluish discoloration of the gums (caused by lack of oxygen in the blood).

# Rescue Breathing

- 1** Seal the upper and lower jowls with your hands so air does not escape when you give breaths.
- 2** Give two rescue breaths. Blow for 2 to 3 seconds into the pet's nose. Each breath should be given with enough force to make the chest rise, but no more than that (blow into both mouth and nose for small pets).

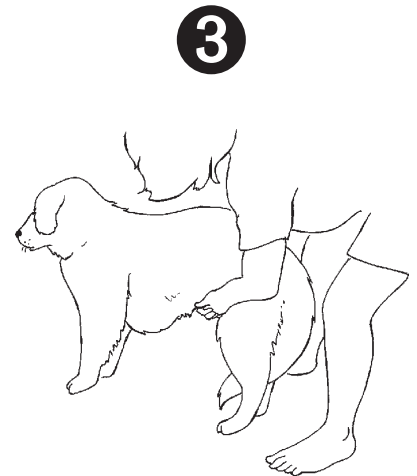
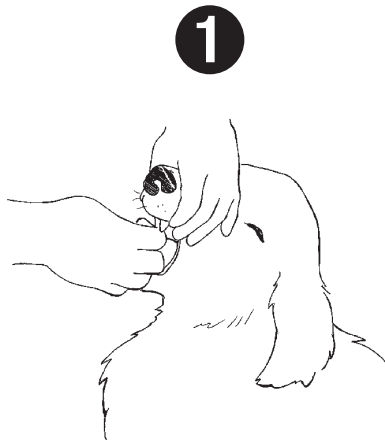


## CHOKING

If an obstruction is present, it may be identified by looking into the back of the mouth. The first step to take if your pet is choking is to open the mouth and see if the object is visible. If you can see it, attempt to remove object with tweezers, needle nose pliers or other appropriate device. Clasp object and pull gently. A finger sweep of the back of the throat should NOT be performed in a conscious animal, as the risk of a severe bite is present.

If you cannot see object, or if you can see it but cannot dislodge it, you will have to perform an abdominal thrust. This procedure

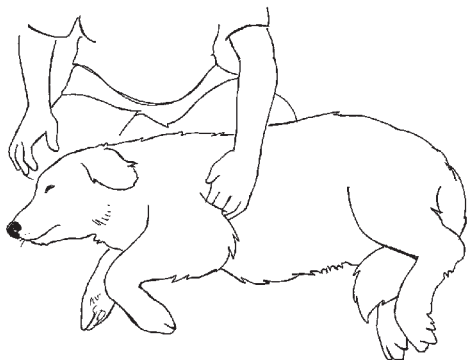
is similar to the well-known "Heimlich" maneuver. You must face pet's spine and place arms around pet, making a fist and placing thumb side right below pet's front legs, and press inward and upwards against the animal's chest. This should be done with quick, firm compressions. Repeat several times, then pause and check pet's mouth. Repeat the abdominal thrusts until object is dislodged and retrievable. If object is dislodged and pet is not breathing, perform rescue breathing and CPR as necessary.



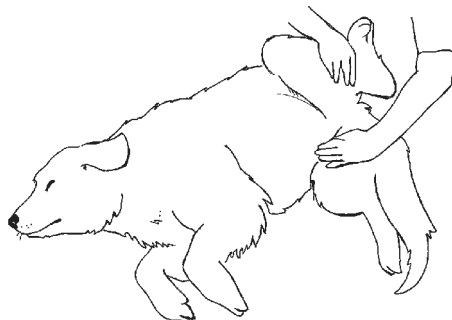
## Checking for Animal's Heartbeat

**1**

Place your hand on pet's chest wall just behind the point of the elbow.

**2**

Check the inner thigh by lying pet on side, gently lifting back leg and placing fingertips on the inside of either leg where the leg meets the body.

**3**

Place index finger just below the ankle on the side of the front or back paw.



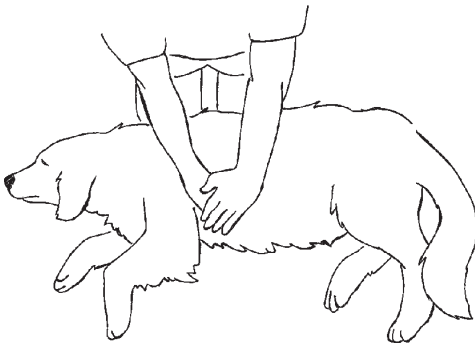
***Practice feeling a pulse on your pet!***



If pet is unresponsive and there are no signals of circulation, start CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

## Steps of CPR

- 1** The pet should be lying on one side on a firm flat surface during chest compressions. Your knees should be close to the animal.
- 2** To perform compressions, place the heel of one hand on the rib cage where the point of the elbow meets the chest wall (the approximate location of the heart). Place the second hand on top of the first.
- 3** Fingers can be interlaced to help maintain hand position.
- 4** Lean slightly forward so the shoulders are directly above the hands. Lock the elbows and use upper body weight to assist in doing compressions.
- 5** Compressions should be smooth, regular and delivered straight down at a rate of 100 times per minute. Release pressure and allow the chest to return to normal position. Follow 15 compressions with two rescue breaths.
- 6** The heel of your hand should remain on chest wall during the up and down compression movement.
- 7** If you have two rescuers involved, provide 5 compressions for each rescue breath.
- 8** CPR should be continued until pet is successfully resuscitated, or it has been determined that pet is deceased (typically after 20 minutes of no response to resuscitation).



**NOTE:** For pets under 30 lbs., compression can be given by rhythmically squeezing the animal's rib cage with both hands.

## BLEEDING CONTROL

If signals of circulation are *present*, continue assessment of circulation by checking for major bleeding. If the animal is obviously bleeding, you must control it.

### • Major Bleeding

Look over the pet's entire body for major bleeding.

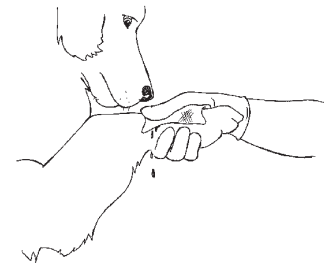
1. If major bleeding is present, place clean, absorbent material over the wound and apply direct pressure with your hand.
2. If material becomes soaked with blood, do not remove the

first blood-soaked ones.

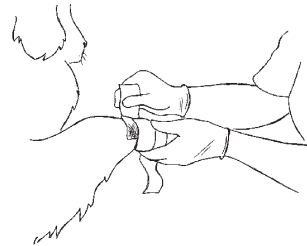
3. Apply additional pads or dressings and continue to apply direct pressure over the materials and bleeding wound.
4. Once the bleeding has been controlled, bandage dressing in place tight enough to maintain pressure but not so tight to restrict circulation. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible. Make arrangements for safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.

## Bleeding Control Steps

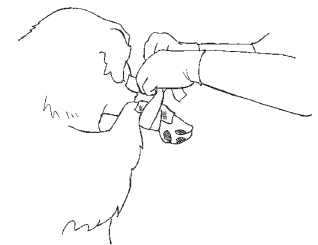
- 1** Using a sterile (or at least clean) dressing, apply gentle pressure over wound (**REMEMBER - Use appropriate restraint prior to application of care!**)



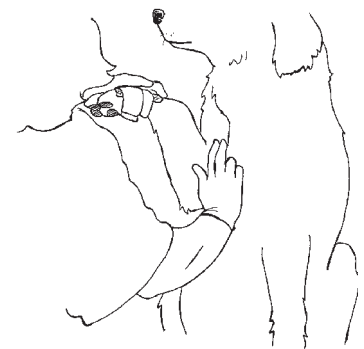
- 2** Wrap roller gauze around wound site.



- 3** Tie knot directly over wound.  
**Caution:** Do not tie too tight or you may cut off circulation below wound. This is not intended to be a tourniquet. Do not remove soaked dressing – just add additional layers.



- 4** If bleeding does not stop, use the flat part of your fingertips to compress the nearest artery (pressure point).  
Examples of pressure points are the femoral artery where a pulse is palpated for severe bleeding in the hindlimb, and the artery on the inside of the upper forelimb for severe forelimb bleeding.



**NOTE:** Any wound that bleeds enough to require a bandage **MUST** be evaluated by a veterinarian as soon as possible for definitive cleaning, possible additional hemostasis (bleeding control) and closure.

## SHOCK

Uncontrolled internal or external bleeding reduces the volume of circulating oxygenated blood and results in shock. Shock can also be caused by heart failure, damage to the spinal cord and system-wide infection. Shock is a complex physiological condition but has a simple outcome:

- Lack of oxygen to body tissues and
- Death, if not treated promptly.

The early control of major bleeding may limit shock and has great life-saving potential.

When the pet's organs do not receive an adequate supply of oxygenated blood, they fail to function properly. In a minor injury, the pet's body will typically compensate, and this problem will be resolved in a short time. If the pet's body cannot adjust or compensate for the lost fluid or pressure, shock will occur.

You should anticipate that most seriously ill or injured animals would develop shock. Because shock is caused by inadequate oxygenation of the blood and vital organs, maintaining an open airway, assuring adequate breathing, circulation and controlling bleeding is the most effective way to manage shock.



## Signs of Shock

- Restlessness, anxiety
- Changes in level of responsiveness
- Tongue, gums or inner eyelids may appear gray, blue or whitish
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Extreme thirst
- Slow (>2 seconds) Capillary Refill Time (CRT)
- Cold face and extremities
- Weakness
- Collapse
- Temperature below 100° F.
- Trembling



## Care for Shock

1. Perform Initial Assessment: Assess–Alert–Attend (refer to pages 4 - 8)
  - Open and maintain airway.
  - Perform rescue breathing and CPR, if necessary.
  - Control bleeding, if any.
  - Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.
  - Try to soothe and relax pet, and keep it as quiet as possible.
  - Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.

## Pet Loss & Bereavement Support

Attempting to resuscitate a pet is an unmistakable demonstration of human compassion and caring. Although the outcome of cardiopulmonary resuscitation attempts on dogs and cats by lay rescuers outside a veterinary facility has not been adequately studied, successful resuscitation inside veterinary facilities is relatively rare.

In one fairly large study at a veterinary critical care facility, discharge rates for animals with cardiopulmonary arrest ranged from 4.1% for dogs to 9.6% for cats. These low survival rates are consistent with reports from studies of human beings with out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary arrest.<sup>(1)</sup>

One who attempts resuscitation on a pet must realize the odds are against him or her; thus, the death of a companion animal can be a difficult and emotional time. However, many resources are available to provide a supportive outlet for people experiencing the loss of a companion animal. The Delta Society® is a leading international resource for the human-animal bond and maintains a complete list of Pet Loss and Bereavement Support resources on its web site at [www.deltasociety.org/](http://www.deltasociety.org/).

<sup>(1)</sup>Wingfield W.E., Van Pelt D.R. *Respiratory and cardiopulmonary arrest in dogs and cats: 265 cases (1986-1991)*; J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.; 1992; Jun 15;200(12):1993-6

# INJURIES TO MUSCLES AND BONES

Injuries to the bones and muscles are common in animals. These injuries are largely non-life-threatening. However, prompt recognition and first aid for muscle and bone injuries are important in reducing pain, preventing further injury and minimizing permanent damage.

**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**

## MECHANISM OF INJURY

Mechanism of Injury refers to the cause of a pet's injury or death. A common cause of accidental injury and death for both dogs and cats is being hit by motor vehicles. The mechanism of injury in these cases is a rapid sequence of events that involves several collisions. The first collision is the collision of the vehicle against the animal's body; the second collision is the internal organs as they twist or strike against each other and against the animals muscles and bones; and the third collision is the animal's body against the ground.

Accidents at home and at play, such as falls, are also leading mechanisms of injury and death in animals. Considering the mechanism of injury is especially important when the animal has been exposed to significant force but appears uninjured. While external injury may be minimal or absent, there may be damage to underlying internal organs and internal bleeding which can be fatal over time. Any animal that has been subject to a significant mechanism of injury should be thoroughly examined at a veterinary hospital.

## PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT (HEAD-TO-TOE EXAM)

Your pet cannot tell you in human terms when it is not feeling well, where it hurts or what happened. It is up to you to know your pet's normal state of health well enough to know when your pet is ill or injured. If you suspect your pet is ill or injured, it may be helpful to perform a physical assessment.

### To perform the physical assessment

1. Inspect (look) and palpate (feel) for signs of injury:

- Deformities
- Open injuries
- Tenderness
- Swelling

The mnemonic “**D-O-T-S**” is helpful in remembering the signs of injury.

2. Briefly assess the animal's body in a logical manner:

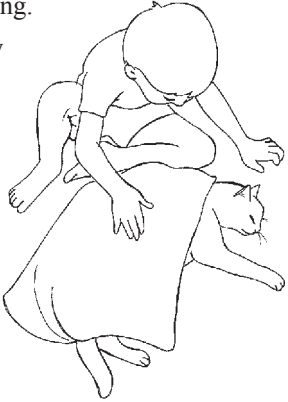

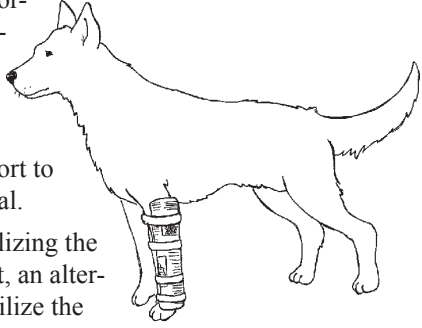
- Head
- Neck
- Chest
- Abdomen
- Pelvis
- All four extremities



**Note:** Medical identification tags may provide beneficial information about allergies, medications or past medical history.

Avoid being distracted by obvious, but less serious problems. As an example, after an animal is hit by a car, it may have a number of scratches, bruises and small lacerations which may look very unpleasant (and may cause problems for the animal in the future). However, a more serious injury to the head, neck, chest, abdomen or pelvis may be immediately life-threatening.



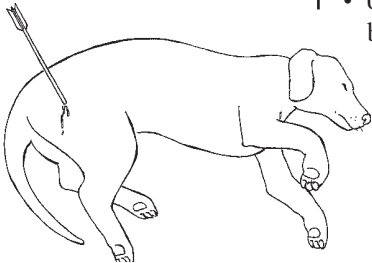
Type of Injury	Signs & Symptoms	Specific Care
<p><b>Head, Neck or Back</b></p> <p>Any injuries to the head or neck can be very serious. An injury of this nature can leave your pet paralyzed, permanently disabled or dead. Your provision of first aid may save your pet's life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unresponsiveness</li> <li>• Bleeding from ears, mouth or nose</li> <li>• Difference in pupil size</li> <li>• Disorientation</li> <li>• Obvious wound on head, neck or back</li> <li>• Paralysis</li> <li>• Swelling or obvious deformity</li> <li>• Loss of bladder or bowel control</li> <li>• Anus may appear to be open</li> <li>• Pet sensitive to touch</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If possible, keep pet from moving.</li> <li>2. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you must transport the pet yourself, use a piece of plywood or something similar and slide it underneath pet. Then take strips of a sheet and tie three to four strips around board and pet to immobilize.</li> <li>• Monitor pet's airway, breathing and circulation. Keep head, neck and back immobile.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> 
<p><b>Limb Injuries</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limping</li> <li>• Deformity</li> <li>• Pain and tenderness</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Exposed bone ends</li> <li>• Pet cannot support body weight</li> <li>• Loss of limb function</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If open wound is present (with or without exposed bone), cover it with moist sterile gauze or clean cloth dressing.</li> <li>2. Hold limb still.</li> <li>3. Splint the entire limb using any stiff material that is handy, such as a folded newspaper, or magazine. The splint should keep the limb from moving which will reduce pain.</li> <li>4. Pad hollow areas between the splint and injured limb with soft materials, such as cloth or roller gauze.</li> <li>5. Wrap the splint with roller gauze, cloth strips or tape to keep it from slipping.</li> <li>6. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>7. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol> <p><b>NOTE:</b> If immobilizing the limb is too difficult, an alternative is to immobilize the entire animal by wrapping it in a blanket firmly, but not so tight as to restrict breathing.</p> 



# SOFT TISSUE INJURIES AND WOUND CARE

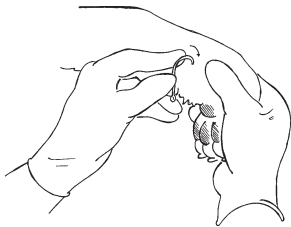
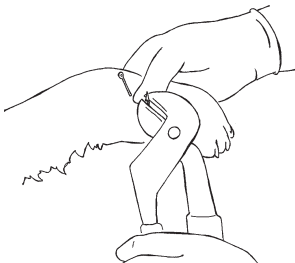

**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**



Type of Wound	Signs & Symptoms	Specific Care
Penetrating Objects  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obvious object penetrating tissue</li> <li>• Entry wound and possible exit wound</li> <li>• Usually not a lot of obvious blood loss</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not remove the pet from the object or do not remove object from pet. Removal of object could cause fatal bleeding. Clip the object off without moving, <i>if it is possible</i>.</li> <li>2. Bandage around object utilizing enough padding and support material to keep object immobilized. Bandaging should not delay pursuit of veterinary care.</li> <li>3. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Puncture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs of shock (see Signs of Shock on page 9)</li> <li>• Entry and possible exit wound (example: gunshot wound, nail or other pointed object that can penetrate tissue)</li> <li>• Minimal bleeding unless artery is struck</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expose wound.</li> <li>2. Clean and disinfect with sterile saline or clean water.</li> <li>3. Bandage (see Bandaging an Open Wound on page 14).</li> <li>4. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Chest/Lung Puncture (potentially life-threatening)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chest wound</li> <li>• Possible bleeding at wound site</li> <li>• Labored breathing marked by a sucking noise</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attempt to make an airtight seal.</li> <li>2. Cover the opening with a large piece of plastic wrap and possibly an antibiotic ointment.</li> <li>3. Tape in place.</li> <li>4. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Avulsion (separation of mass tissue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flaps of skin and tissue torn loose or entirely ground off</li> <li>• Internal organs or joints may be exposed</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cover with a thick, moist dressing (preferably sterile).</li> <li>2. Bandage in place.</li> <li>3. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>

## SOFT TISSUE INJURIES AND WOUND CARE - CONT'D.



Type of Wound	Signs & Symptoms	Specific Care
<p><b>Fish Hook Penetration</b></p> <p>Often pets will play with fish line or run across line and become entangled and snagged by hook. Sometimes they even swallow an item that has a fishhook embedded in it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fish hook protruding from the skin or mouth.</li><li>• Fishing line coming out of mouth or anus.</li></ul>	<p>There are two methods to remove a fish hook. These procedures are painful and would best be performed under sedation at a veterinary hospital. If it is not possible to get pet to a veterinarian immediately, you may attempt to provide the following care.</p> <p><b>Method #1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remember to get help restraining pet prior to provision of first aid care.</li><li>2. Push hook through the exit wound until you see the barbed end of hook (refer to Illustration 1-1).</li><li>3. Cut the barb off with a wire cutter (refer to Illustration 1-2).</li><li>4. Pull remainder of hook out backwards, the way it went in (refer to Illustration 1-3).</li><li>5. Clean wound and apply antibiotic ointment.</li><li>6. Seek veterinary care or call veterinarian for wound management advice. A regimen of antibiotics may be required. Dogs and cats are quite resistant to tetanus, and tetanus prophylaxis is generally not performed.</li></ol>
<div><div><p>1-1. Push hook through exit wound.</p></div><div><p>1-2. Cut barb off with wire cutter.</p></div><div><p>1-3. Pull remainder of hook out backwards, the way it went in.</p></div></div>		<p><b>Method #2</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Put a loop of fish line through the bend of the fishhook so that a quick jerk can be applied, and the hook can be pulled out directly in line with the shaft of the hook.</li><li>2. Holding on to the shaft, push the hook slightly in and away from the barb to disengage the barb.</li><li>3. Holding this pressure constant to keep the barb disengaged, give a quick jerk on the fish line and the hook will pop out.</li><li>4. Wash the wound with mild soap and cover with a sterile dressing.</li><li>5. Seek veterinary care or call veterinarian for wound management advice. A regimen of antibiotics may be required. Dogs and cats are quite resistant to tetanus, and tetanus prophylaxis is generally not performed. Never attempt to remove fishhook that is in or around pet's eye or artery.</li></ol>

## SOFT TISSUE INJURIES AND WOUND CARE - CONT'D.



Type of Wound	Signs & Symptoms	Specific Care
Closed Wounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General signs of shock (see Signs of Shock on page 9).</li> <li>• Coughing blood.</li> <li>• Bleeding from nose, mouth or blood in urine, feces or saliva.</li> <li>• Abdominal distention.</li> <li>• Localized sensitivity or pain, swelling, deformity, inability to stand or unconsciousness.</li> <li>• Discoloration</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immobilize pet (restrict movement).</li> <li>2. Monitor breathing and circulation, and provide necessary care.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>

## BANDAGING AN OPEN WOUND

1. Restrain pet as necessary.
2. Disinfect your hands, and use a barrier such as gloves.
3. Gently clean wound with sterile saline or clean water. Water is not ideal and can delay healing but is better than not cleaning the wound at all. Do not probe wound.
4. Cover wound with a sterile dressing.
5. Use roller gauze and wrap wound exceeding to 1" above sterile dressing. For wounds on the limbs, it is best to wrap from the bottom of the foot up and over the wound. Wrapping in this manner may decrease the incidence of bandage-related complications.

**NOTE:** Any wound that requires a bandage should be evaluated by a veterinarian within hours. Transport to veterinary facility. Improper bandaging can (and often does) result in **WORSENING** of the pet's clinical condition and can hinder a positive outcome.



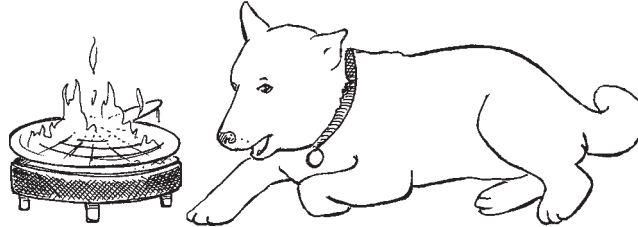
## BURNS

There are a variety of burns and different care for each type of burn, as we will explain in this section.

- **Heat Burn** - Caused by fire or hot liquid.
- **Chemical Burn** - Caused by contact with chemicals, usually lye or sulfuric acid-based cleaning substance (i.e., toilet bowl and/or drain cleaner).
- **Electrical Burn** - Caused by contact with electrical cord or wires, often the result of biting or chewing on household appliance cords.

There are three different levels of severity of burns:

- **1<sup>st</sup> degree** - This is superficial, much like a sunburn. It will typically heal without much care.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> degree** - This burn goes through the outer skin layer, and infection is likely to occur.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> degree** - This burns through the skin layers (epidermis and dermis). Shock is probable. Death is a possibility.



**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**

### HEAT BURN

Severity of Burn	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red or swollen skin which is painful to touch</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immerse or gently flush burned area in cool water 15 to 20 minutes.</li> <li>2. Cool compresses are acceptable, but never put ice directly on the skin.</li> </ol>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blisters</li> <li>• Skin white to red in color and moist</li> <li>• Singed fur which is painful to touch</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cover burn area with a dry, sterile dressing.</li> <li>2. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blisters</li> <li>• Skin white to red in color and moist</li> <li>• Singed fur which is painful to touch</li> <li>• Shock</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cover burn area with a dry, sterile dressing.</li> <li>2. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>

**NOTE:** Because of pet hair, the extent of a burn is often not appreciated and may be much more extensive than expected. All burns should be evaluated by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

16




## EYE INJURIES

Various eye injuries can be a problem for your pet. We will list typical symptoms and then list the type of injury and care. Regardless of the injury, you may have to restrain animal to give care. You may even have to tape front paws or place an Elizabethan collar (see Elizabethan Collar on page 3) on pet to prevent it from thrashing its eyes.

To provide the appropriate care, you must determine the cause of

**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**



Type of Injury	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
Particle(s) in the Eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye may be closed</li> <li>• Bleeding</li> <li>• Excessive tearing or redness</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Pawing at eye(s)</li> <li>• Decreased clarity to the cornea</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flush eye(s) thoroughly with tap water, saline or eye irrigation solution.</li> <li>2. Apply ophthalmic antibiotic drops, if available.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Chemical Splashed in the Eye	Same as above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flush eye(s) thoroughly with tap water, saline or eye irrigation solution.</li> <li>2. When only one eye is affected, rinse with affected eye downward to avoid contaminating clear eye.</li> <li>3. Rinse for as long as you can, ideally 5 minutes or more.</li> <li>4. Place gauze pad over affected eye and wrap a bandage over both eyes. This may be very stressful to the pet. If so, this step may be omitted.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Lacerations of the Eyelid	Same as above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Control bleeding: gently apply pressure with a dry gauze pad until bleeding stops.</li> <li>2. Tape a gauze pad over both eyes (keeps both eyes from moving). This may be very stressful to the pet. If so, this step may be omitted.</li> <li>3. Apply an Elizabethan collar (see Elizabethan Collar on page 3).</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol> <p>Injuries to the eyelid (especially involving the lid margin) can cause major problems if they heal improperly. Trauma that causes damage to the lid margin may also result in damage to the eye itself up very far under the lid. As a result, veterinary evaluation is critical.</p>

**EYE INJURIES - CONT'D.**

Type of Injury	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
Laceration of the Eyeball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye may be closed</li> <li>• Bleeding</li> <li>• Excessive tearing or redness</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Pawing at eye(s)</li> <li>• Decreased clarity to the cornea</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place a damp gauze pad over injured eye and dry pad over uninjured eye, if tolerated. This treatment may be stressful to pet. If so, this step may be omitted.</li> <li>2. You may want to apply Elizabethan collar (see Elizabethan Collar on page 3) to stop pet from pawing or thrashing eye.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Protruding Object in the Eye	Same as above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not remove object.</li> <li>2. Cover affected eye with a small paper cup or something similar in shape. The idea is to keep object from doing any further damage. Use roller gauze in a figure eight application manner to keep cup over affected eye and then cover unaffected eye to keep eyes from moving. This may be stressful to the pet. If so, this step may be omitted.</li> <li>3. You may want to apply Elizabethan collar (see Elizabethan Collar on page 3) to stop pet from pawing at the eye.</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Eyeball out of socket	Eyeball out of socket	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not attempt to push eye back into socket.</li> <li>2. Protect prolapsed eyeball with sterile gauze soaked in clean water, eye irrigation or saline solution.</li> <li>3. Keep eye moist and immobile.</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>



# MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

## POISONING

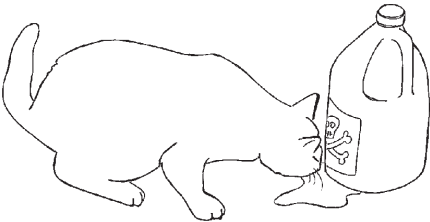
Pets are curious, and sometimes they get themselves into trouble by sampling some of the local plants, shrubs, pool chemicals or yard chemicals. Sometimes they clean themselves after walking across a recently treated lawn and ingest poison. The list goes on. Remember, poisons can be eaten, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

If a product or plant is considered poisonous to you, it is most likely poisonous to your pet. There are things like chocolate that in most cases is fine for human consumption but can really cause problems for your pet. Always use a protective barrier before handling any poisonous materials and most of all, assess the scene for danger. Your personal safety is paramount.

**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**

Type of Poisoning	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<div>General</div> <div></div>	<div>The signs of poisoning may occur immediately, within hours or may take longer to appear.</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vomiting</li><li>• Unusual odor on breath or coat</li><li>• Coughing</li><li>• Diarrhea</li><li>• Red, irritated, swollen eyes</li><li>• Constricted or dilated pupils</li><li>• Redness around the mouth</li><li>• Shock</li><li>• Coma</li><li>• Seizures</li><li>• Unconsciousness and possibly death</li><li>• Tremors</li><li>• Salivation</li><li>• Urination</li><li>• “Wobbly” gait</li><li>• Unexplained swellings</li><li>• Spontaneous bleeding</li></ul></div>	<div></div> <div><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, call either your veterinarian or the National Animal Poison Control Center (NAPCC) at <b>1-900-680-0000</b> (or 1-888-4ANI HELP) for appropriate first aid steps. To utilize the NAPCC 900 number, you must know what toxin has been ingested. Have a major credit card available to place call. This call has a fee that is utilized to support ASPCA’s hotline services.</li><li>2. If you are unable to reach anyone, make a determination as to whether or not poison was corrosive or volatile, or neither.</li></ol></div>

**POISONING – CONT'D.**

Type of Poisoning	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p>Corrosive Poison (Corrosive poison will often create symptoms such as burns around mouth and nose.)</p>	<p>The signs of poisoning may occur immediately, within hours or may take longer to appear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Unusual odor on breath or coat</li> <li>• Coughing</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Red, irritated, swollen eyes</li> <li>• Constricted or dilated pupils</li> <li>• Redness around the mouth</li> <li>• Shock</li> <li>• Coma</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Unconsciousness and possibly death</li> <li>• Tremors</li> <li>• Salivation</li> <li>• Urination</li> <li>• “Wobbly” gait</li> <li>• Unexplained swellings</li> <li>• Spontaneous bleeding</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If corrosive, be sure to protect yourself from contact with corrosive agent!</li> <li>2. Wash out pet’s mouth with clean water. Give pet activated charcoal to help stop absorption. Large pets may use up to a pint, and small pets may take 4 to 6 ounces. Follow directions on package. Do NOT force these substances on the pet, as they may induce vomiting or cause the pet to take them into the trachea and lungs. Do not administer anything by mouth if unconscious, severely depressed, vomiting, having difficulty breathing or seizing.</li> <li>3. If you still have not reached professional assistance after 30 minutes, then give a second dose of activated charcoal.</li> </ol>
<p>Volatile Poison (Volatile poisons, such as gasoline, will often have strong aromas.)</p>	<p>Same as for general poisoning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not induce vomiting.</li> <li>2. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
<p>Non-Corrosive/ Non-Volatile Poison</p> <p>Non-corrosive poison may need to be vomited. Contact your veterinarian or the NAPCC hotline. If you are advised to induce vomiting or if you are more than 30 minutes from veterinary care, see procedures on inducing vomiting.</p>	<p>Same as for general poisoning</p> 	<p>Listed below are directions to help pet vomit poison from system. Your selection will depend on what you have readily accessible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use 3% of hydrogen peroxide. Mix the peroxide with an equal part of water. Administer one teaspoon of the mixture for every 10 pounds of body weight every ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes until vomiting occurs. Do not exceed two doses.</li> <li>2. Syrup of Ipecac - Administer one teaspoon (5 ml.) for every ten (10) pounds of body weight. Do not exceed 15 ml. per pet. Maximum one dose. <b>DO NOT CONFUSE WITH IPECAC EXTRACT.</b> Overdose could be fatal.</li> <li>3. Induction of vomiting should NOT delay pet’s transport to a veterinary hospital</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> Pet may not tolerate Syrup of Ipecac. This should only be used if your vet advises you to do so.</p>

**POISONING – CONT'D.**

Type of Poisoning	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p>Absorbed Poison</p> <p>Many times a pet will walk or roll in a poisonous substance. The poison can be absorbed through the pet's skin.</p>	<p>The signs of poisoning may occur immediately, within hours or may take longer to appear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Unusual odor on breath or coat</li> <li>• Coughing</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Red, irritated, swollen eyes</li> <li>• Constricted or dilated pupils</li> <li>• Redness around the mouth</li> <li>• Shock</li> <li>• Coma</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Unconsciousness and possibly death</li> <li>• Tremors</li> <li>• Salivation</li> <li>• Urination</li> <li>• “Wobbly” gait</li> <li>• Unexplained swellings</li> <li>• Spontaneous bleeding</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect yourself by using a barrier before touching pet.</li> <li>2. Rinse and wash pet thoroughly. Avoid getting any in pet's eyes.</li> <li>3. If poison is in a powder form, you should take steps to prevent yourself from inhaling substance, and then try to brush pet off or vacuum.</li> <li>4. Rinse pet well.</li> </ol>
<p>Inhaled Poison</p>		<p>If your pet has inhaled a poisonous gas, <b><i>and it is safe to approach:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take animal to a location where fresh air is abundant.</li> <li>2. Perform initial assessment and care (refer to page 4).</li> <li>3. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>

**NOTE:** There are situations that may occur that could expose you or your pet to gases that can quickly cause unconsciousness and sometimes lead to asphyxiation and death such as carbon monoxide, chlorine gas, ammonia, etc.

As always, remember your own personal safety is paramount. You should never attempt to provide assistance if you may be exposed to dangerous conditions. If a situation seems dangerous, call 911 or your local emergency number.

In any case of poisoning, you should always contact your veterinarian. If you have the poison available, contact the NAPCC hotline. Do not ever administer any liquid to an animal that is unconscious, seizing, having difficulty breathing or vomiting.



## POISONING – CONT'D.

### Common Poison Substances That Can Injure Your Pet

- Acetone
- Adhesives
- Alcohol (beverages and bread dough)
- Arsenic
- Antifreeze
- Battery acid
- Bleach
- Brake fluid
- Carbon monoxide
- Canine flea preventative given to a cat
- Chocolate
- Cosmetics
- Crayons
- Cleaning detergents
- Disinfectants
- Caffeine
- Carbon monoxide
- Drain cleaners
- Fabric softener
- Fertilizers
- Fireworks
- Flea control products
- Garbage toxins
- Glue or paste
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Linoleum
- Matches
- Mothballs
- Motor oil
- Medicines (all human and pet)
- Mushrooms
- Paint
- Plants (Contact your vet for list of local plants that may pose danger to your pet.)
- Roach and other insect poison
- Shampoo (Human)
- Suntan lotion
- Vitamins
- Weights containing lead
- Wood preservatives
- Change (coins)
- Mouse and rat poison
- Tylenol
- Naproxen
- Aspirin
- Vitamin D ointments
- Vitamins



**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**

## SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION (ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK)

Anaphylactic shock is a life-threatening reaction of the body to a substance to which the victim is extremely allergic. It is impossible to predict the exact course of anaphylactic shock. Sometimes a reaction may happen immediately, other times it may take up to 30 minutes or more.

Anaphylactic shock is typically caused by an insect bite or sting, reaction to vaccination, treating heartworm-positive dogs with heartworm preventative, an ingested substance (food source or medication), an inhaled substance or absorbed substance.

### Signs of Severe Allergic Reaction

- A rash, red skin or hives
- Noisy or difficulty breathing
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Swelling of facial area including tongue

### Care for Severe Allergic Reaction

1. Perform Initial Assessment: Assess–Alert–Attend (refer to pages 4 - 8)
  - Open and maintain airway.
  - Perform rescue breathing and CPR, if necessary.
  - Control bleeding, if necessary, and care for shock.
2. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.
3. **If advised by veterinarian** and it is appropriate, you may need to give pet the over-the-counter antihistamine Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®).
  - Small dogs and cats (less than 30 lbs.) can receive up to 10 mg.
  - Medium dogs or pets (30-50 lbs.) can receive 25 mg.
  - Large dogs or pets (over 50 lbs.) can receive 50 mg.

Only give oral medication to pet when it is responsive, and you have been advised to do so by a veterinarian.
4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.

## ELECTRIC SHOCK

An electric shock is usually the result of chewing on an electric cord. This happens most often to kittens or puppies that are in the “chew-anything-and-everything” phase.

There are some preventative measures that you can take to lower the risk of this happening to your pet, but there is no guarantee that it will never happen. You must always protect yourself by making sure the power is off before rendering care to a pet that is still touching the cord. To reduce the risk of your pet suffering an electric shock, you should:

- Place cords in a manner that limits your pet’s access.
- Provide your pet with plenty of chew toys.
- Unplug cords that are not used often.
- Purchase plastic cord covers from your hardware store.

### Signs of Electric Shock

- Unconscious and lying near or on cord
- Burn marks around mouth and on tongue
- Difficulty breathing
- Foul smell from mouth
- Drooling



### First Aid Care

1. Be sure to turn off power source prior to providing care.
2. Perform initial assessment. Assess–Alert–Attend (refer to pages 4 - 8)
  - Open and maintain airway.
  - Perform rescue breathing and CPR, if necessary.
  - Control bleeding, if any.
  - Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.
  - Try to soothe and relax pet and keep it as quiet as possible.
  - Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

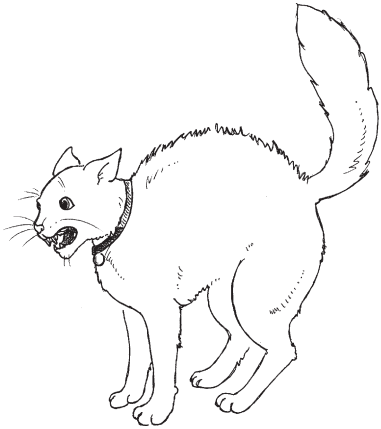
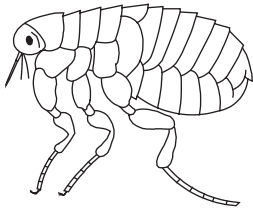
## CRITTER BITES AND ENCOUNTERS

Your pet may encounter a variety of critters when snooping around under the house or visiting the nearby woods. Often the pet will happen upon a not-so-friendly critter or one that reacts out of self-preservation and bites or sprays your curious pet.

Insects will bite your pet. Some insects may be harboring various diseases. Your pet needs to be inspected regularly for bites, stings or infestations. Microscopic parasites also are addressed in this section and will require your attention.

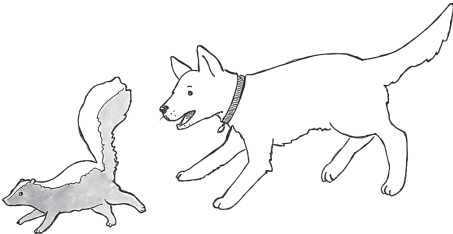
This section lists “critters” alphabetically.

**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**

Type of Critter	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Animal Bites</b></p> <p>Animals may fight and injure one another. If your pet does engage in battle with another animal, you must be careful when trying to break things up. Far too often people are seriously injured during these confrontations.</p> <p>If your pet is bitten or scratched, you will need to provide first aid. Be aware that you should always wear gloves when providing care and avoid touching your eyes, mouth or nose until you have properly cleaned yourself. Rabies is another reason to wear a barrier and to take care to protect yourself (see Rabies on page 36).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obvious wound site</li> <li>• Bleeding</li> <li>• Red and/or swollen area</li> <li>• Bruising</li> <li>• Avulsion (see Avulsion on page 12)</li> </ul> 	<p>Remember to perform initial assessment of the ABCs, “Assess–Alert–Attend,” and use a proper barrier to avoid contact with body fluids.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flush wound with saline or clean water. Remember— pet may bite or scratch under these circumstances, so use a proper method of restraint if necessary.</li> <li>2. Apply antibiotic ointment.</li> <li>3. Bring pet to veterinary hospital.</li> <li>4. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol> <p><b>NOTE:</b> <i>Animals that bite one another can transmit rabies. Consult with veterinarian regarding appropriate monitoring and protection.</i></p>
<p><b>Fleas</b></p> <p>Get your pet on a good flea control plan or keep your pet from the outdoors.</p> <p>The best method of flea prevention should be discussed with your pet’s veterinarian. There are several droplet applications, pill form applications, powders and shampoos that are now available. Additionally, you may need to have yard treated for fleas to help control infestation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intense itching</li> <li>• Rash (especially over the top of the rump)</li> <li>• Obvious bites</li> <li>• Various skin ailments – flea bites on human owners</li> </ul> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult veterinarian as to optimal method of flea control. There are presently many alternatives to bathing that are both rapid and effective. NEVER apply canine flea control products to cats.</li> <li>2. If there is a moist, itchy spot of skin or “hot spot,” the area should be clipped free of hair and washed off with a mild soap. These areas are often a result of self trauma. Hot spots can occur due to a variety of allergens (not just fleas).</li> <li>3. Antibiotic treatment may be necessary if deep skin infection is present. Do not apply ointments or give medications unless directed by a veterinarian as they may interfere with definitive identification of the cause of the problem.</li> </ol>

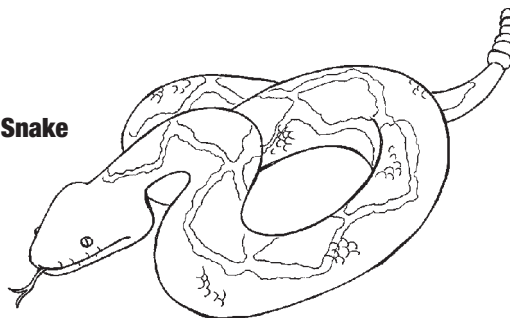
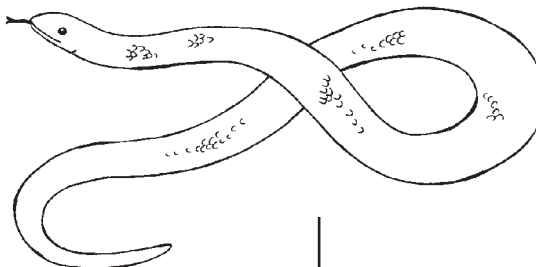
## CRITTER BITES AND ENCOUNTERS – CONT'D.



Type of Critter	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Flying Insect Envenomation</b></p> <p>Your pet may fall victim to an individual insect, or your pet may be swarmed. If your pet is swarmed, you must call your veterinarian and prepare to transfer immediately. Your pet's life may be in danger.</p> <p>Insects usually sting the soft, less furry areas on pets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain</li> <li>• Red, swollen or bruised area surrounding bite</li> <li>• Shivering</li> <li>• Itching</li> <li>• Hives</li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea</li> <li>• Breathing difficulties</li> <li>• Signs of shock (see Anaphylactic Shock on page 23). This type of shock, commonly referred to as anaphylactic shock, is a severe allergic reaction that may happen almost immediately or progress rapidly over several hours.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wash site.</li> <li>2. Apply a cold pack.</li> <li>3. Monitor pet for an allergic reaction (see Anaphylactic Shock on page 23). If any of the previously mentioned signs are encountered, seek veterinary care immediately.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Porcupine Quills</b></p> <p>Porcupine quills are painful and very difficult to remove. Each quill has barbed ends that make it snag the tissue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quill sticking out of pet's skin</li> <li>• Red swollen area</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Calm pet and bring to veterinary hospital.</li> <li>2. If you cannot get pet to hospital immediately, you may have to remove quills. <b><i>This should not be done alone.</i></b> Ideally, one person should hold pet while another works to remove the quills.</li> <li>3. Use pliers to grasp the quill near its base and pull straight out.</li> <li>4. If possible, split quill down the middle and then pull out. Quills are hollow, and when you split them, the pressure is released at the base; therefore, the quill is easier to remove.</li> <li>5. Clean wound with a mild soap and warm water.</li> <li>6. Optional application of antiseptic or antibiotic ointment.</li> <li>7. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>8. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Skunk Encounter</b></p> <p>If your pet has a "run in" with a skunk, you will know as soon as your pet nuzzles up to you. Skunk encounters are ones that you will most likely always remember. The smell from the skunk spray is enough to send you running.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obvious offensive odor</li> <li>• Possible soft tissue damage (bites)</li> <li>• Frightened or disturbed</li> </ul> 	<p>Purchase an odor-neutralizing product from your veterinarian or your local pet store and be sure to follow directions. There are specific products available for skunk odor neutralization.</p> <p>Whichever solution you apply, you should follow up with giving your pet a bath using lots of water and shampoo based on the odor neutralizing product's directions if indicated.</p> <p><b><i>NOTE:</i></b> Always use gloves during cleaning and do not wear good clothing or use towels that are of great value.</p>

**CRITTER BITES AND ENCOUNTERS – CONT'D.**

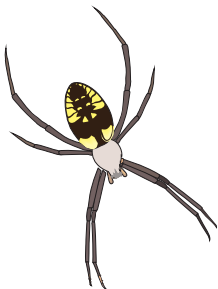
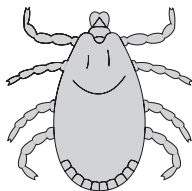
Type of Critter	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Snakebites</b></p> <p>Determine whether the snake that has bitten your pet is poisonous or not. <i>Remember, do not put yourself in danger attempting to find out – your safety is priority number one.</i></p> <p>Most venomous snakes in North America have fangs and an indentation between the eyes and nostrils. Most North American non-venomous snakes do not have fangs or any indentation between eyes and nostril. They usually have round eyes, although exceptions do exist.</p> <p>With the increased incidence of venomous snakes being kept as pets, it is always possible that a snake could be venomous despite lacking the aforementioned characteristics. (See illustration.) If you do not see a snake, put rubber gloves on and inspect the bite closely. If you see two puncture wounds, consider the bite to be from a poisonous snake. However, a single puncture wound cannot rule out a bite from a poisonous snake.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fang or bite marks</li> <li>• Red, swollen or bruised skin often on the face and limbs</li> <li>• Painful to touch</li> <li>• Difficulty or no breathing</li> <li>• Twitching and/or drooling</li> <li>• Paralysis</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attempt to keep pet calm. Too much movement will cause venom to spread faster if bite is from poisonous snake.</li> <li>2. If possible, get a visual on snake for identification purposes, but do not place yourself in harm's way.</li> <li>3. Put on gloves and wash wound with water and a mild soap.</li> <li>4. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Do not cut wound open and attempt to suck out the venom. Do not use ice on a snakebite. Do not use constricting bands. A snakebite kit may be appropriate for extended transport time.</p>

**Poisonous Snake****Non-Poisonous Snake**



## CRITTER BITES AND ENCOUNTERS – CONT'D.



Type of Critter	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Spider Bite</b></p> <p>Spider bites may be difficult for pet owner to recognize unless you witness the episode. Overall, most of the roughly 20,000 spiders in the United States are not considered venomous. Only the Black Widow and the Recluse are considered venomous. (Miller TA. Lactrodectism: Bite of the black widow spider. Am Fam Physician 1992; 45(1) 181-187).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Painful to touch</li> <li>• Red, swollen or bruised area surrounding bite.</li> <li>• Shivering or tremors</li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea</li> <li>• Breathing difficulty</li> <li>• Signs of shock (refer to Signs of Shock on page 9)</li> <li>• Paralysis</li> </ul> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attempt to keep pet calm. Too much movement will cause venom to spread faster if bite is from poisonous spider.</li> <li>2. If possible, get a visual on spider for identification purposes, but do not place yourself in harm's way.</li> <li>3. Put on gloves and wash wound with water and a mild soap.</li> <li>4. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Do not place ice on spider bite unless directed to do so. Some spider bites cause severe tissue damage.</p>
<p><b>Tick Bite</b></p> <p>Ticks are blood-sucking parasites that may use pets and humans as a host. They are also carriers of several diseases that can pose harmful to pets and humans alike (for example, Lyme Disease). They commonly attach themselves to animals as they pass through brush, grass, leaves and trees. If you live in an area where your pet has access to areas where ticks are commonly present, you should inspect your pet frequently.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pet may fuss over bite site.</li> <li>• Dark colored insect (often with a swollen body) that is burrowed into pet's skin.</li> <li>• Area around tick may appear to be swollen and irritated.</li> <li>• Ticks may be present anywhere on pet's body but typically are found on or inside the pet's ears and on neck, feet or legs.</li> </ul> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If you find a tick on your pet, be sure to put latex or rubber gloves on for your protection.</li> <li>2. Have tweezers on hand.</li> <li>3. Use alcohol, mineral oil, petroleum jelly or commercial tick spray on a cotton ball, paper towel or tissue. Hold it over tick.</li> <li>4. Ticks may begin backing out within a short period of time (30-60 seconds).</li> <li>5. When tick starts to back out, grab hold of tick with tweezers. Grab the tick by the head (the part right at the skin level). Be careful not to crush tick while grasping. Get a firm hold and gently pull until tick is removed. Check to make sure the entire tick is removed. If the headpiece is left in the pet, seek veterinary care for removal.</li> <li>6. Discard tick in toilet or save tick in plastic bag for your veterinarian to examine. Different ticks carry different diseases that may be transmitted to animals and humans, such as Lyme disease.</li> <li>7. Disinfect the site of the tick bite with warm water and a mild soap. Antibiotic ointment application is optional.</li> </ol>

**CRITTER BITES AND ENCOUNTERS – CONT'D.**

Type of Critter	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Parasite</b></p> <p>Toxoplasmosis is a feline disease caused by a protozoan parasite, which can be transmitted to humans. Toxoplasmosis poses a serious risk to pregnant women and people with suppressed immune systems.</p> <p>To avoid transmission, humans should wear gloves and a mask whenever cleaning litter boxes or cat fecal material. If you do not wear protection, you should avoid direct contact and breathing in dust from a dirty litter box. In addition, you should keep the litter box clean and have someone other than a pregnant woman clean the box. Thorough hand washing is a very important way to avoid transmission. Women may also be exposed to the parasite through working in the garden (areas where cats often defecate). Precautions should be taken when gardening.</p> <hr/> <p><b>NOTE:</b> <i>Cats and humans can also pick up the parasites by ingesting uncooked meat.</i></p> <hr/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diarrhea and or vomiting</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• “Wobbly” or off-balance</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Eye infection</li> <li>• Heart disease</li> <li>• Non-specific signs of illness</li> </ul>	<p>Bring cat to veterinary hospital for definitive diagnosis and treatment.</p>

**CRITTER BITES AND ENCOUNTERS – CONT'D.**

Type of Critter	Signs & Symptoms	Specific Care
<p><b>Roundworms</b></p> <p>Roundworms may live in your pet's intestine. These worms may be visible to you in your pet's stool or sometimes the pet may vomit up these nasty little worms. These worms are common in puppies and kittens and are usually transmitted from the mother. Older pets may get roundworms from other pet's stools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Obvious worms in pet's stool</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Coat lacks luster</li> <li>• Bloated abdomen</li> <li>• Anemia as evidenced by pale gums and laboratory tests by your veterinarian.</li> </ul>	<p>This situation will require a visit to the veterinary hospital for de-worming medication.</p> <div data-bbox="1015 514 1263 588" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p><b>Tape Worms</b></p> <p>Tapeworms are commonly transmitted when an animal digests fleas that carry the tapeworm larvae. Tapeworms are not passed directly from pet to pet but require an intermediate host in which to develop. It is not transmitted by direct contact but by ingestion of an intermediate host either while eating or grooming. Common intermediate hosts are fleas and small animals, such as mice, rats, squirrels and rabbits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically, short, flat looking worms that are usually found around pet's anus or in pet's stool. They will be moving and therefore easy to see.</li> <li>• Anemia</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> </ul>	<p>This situation will require a visit to the veterinary hospital for the appropriate de-worming medication and flea control.</p>

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**NOTE:** Take precautions to use gloves, and keep areas disinfected. Some worms can be transmitted to humans.

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## COLD-RELATED EMERGENCIES

Pets that are exposed to cold temperature conditions may suffer from hypothermia or frostbite. Hypothermia can also result from overly aggressive cooling of hot animals.

### Hypothermia


Hypothermia is the lowering of core body temperature due to exposure to cold air temperatures or cold water. Hypothermia can become life-threatening.

There are two levels of hypothermia: mild hypothermia and severe hypothermia. Each has varying symptoms and different suggested first aid care steps.

### Frostbite

Extreme cold temperatures can cause a pet to suffer from frostbite. Frostbite typically affects a pet's paws, ears, tail and/or scrotum.

**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**



Type of Emergency	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
Mild Hypothermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shivering</li> <li>• Stumbling or lack of coordination</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove pet from cold environment.</li> <li>2. Provide a source of heat such as a blanket, warm water, heat vent, etc.</li> <li>3. Try to put a sweater or blanket on pet.</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
Severe Hypothermia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core body temperature has dropped below 90 degrees.</li> <li>• Shivering has stopped.</li> <li>• Pet's muscles seem stiff and rigid.</li> <li>• Pulse and respiration are very slow.</li> <li>• Pet may appear dead.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove pet from cold environment.</li> <li>2. Be careful if moving pet. Provide support and attempt to keep body parts from twisting or moving too much. Treat pet's body as though it were glass.</li> <li>3. Cover pet with blanket, coat, towel, etc.</li> <li>4. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Do not attempt to aggressively rewarm.</p> <hr/>
Frostbite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red, blue and in extreme cases blackened skin</li> <li>• Lack of sensation at the affected area</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove pet from cold environment.</li> <li>2. Re-warm area with warm (not hot) water.</li> <li>3. Do not rub affected area or you may cause tissue damage.</li> <li>4. After you have re-warmed affected area, you may have to bandage.</li> <li>5. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>6. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>

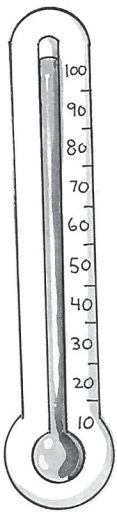
## HEAT-RELATED EMERGENCIES

Heat illness follows a continuum. In other words, after the onset of a minor heat illness, if left uncared for, major heat illness will result.

For example, if your pet has been playing or running intensely on a very warm day, it may start acting sickly and have diarrhea, a loss of appetite, heavy panting and a decreased tolerance for exercise or play. This most likely means that your pet is suffering from heat exhaustion. If cared for immediately, you can prevent your pet from suffering from heat stroke.

Heat stroke is very dangerous and can be fatal for your pet. You should be aware of some of the typical causes of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Some of the common reasons for this emergency are:

- Left in a vehicle too long without proper ventilation. Even with windows cracked or partially open, temperatures can rise very rapidly (within 15 minutes).
- Forced exercise in hot, humid environment.
- Improper outdoor accommodations.
- Underlying medical conditions (example, paralysis of the muscles of the larynx, laryngeal paralysis).
- Previous history of heat-related illness.
- Short-nosed dogs, such as bulldogs and boxers, are much more susceptible to heat-related illness.



## DROWNING

In the event you have to remove your pet from water, remember not to compromise your own safety. If your pet has been pulled from the water, perform initial assessment and provide appropriate care. Seek veterinary care immediately as drowning can result in a variety of alterations in normal physiology such as pulmonary (lung) and electrolyte abnormalities.

## Signs of Heat-Related Emergencies

- Rapid panting
- High heart rate (>130 bpm)
- Red gums
- Decreased level of consciousness (depression to coma)
- Elevated rectal temperature >103° F. (Animals in different stages of heat illness can also have normal or even low rectal temperatures.)
- Vomiting and diarrhea (sometimes with blood)
- Seizures
- Bruising
- History compatible with heat-related illness




## First Aid Care

1. Move to cool environment.
2. DO NOT IMMERSE IN COLD WATER AS THIS MAY RESULT IN A DANGEROUSLY LOW BODY TEMPERATURE!
3. Soak coat with cool water.
4. Apply cool packs to the groin, armpits and neck.
5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.

# COMMON PET ILLNESSES OR CONDITIONS

**Remember: Assess–Alert–Attend before performing a physical assessment or caring for isolated injuries.**

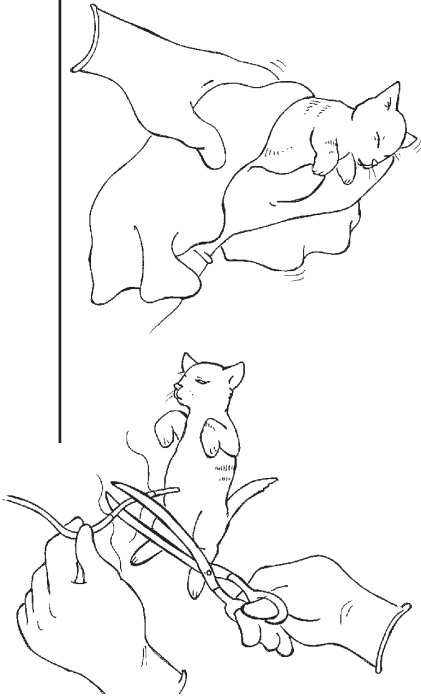


Type of Illness/Condition	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Allergies</b></p> <p>Your pet may have an allergic reaction to an insect bite, vaccination, a shampoo, food, etc. Sometimes allergic reactions can cause your pet to spiral towards death quickly (see Anaphylactic Shock on page 23). Skin reactions are most common.</p> <p>Attempt to identify the allergen (cause) and treat the reaction. Most often the treatments will consist of giving prescribed medicine, using prescribed shampoo or ointment and removal of allergen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent itching, scratching or biting</li> <li>• Rash or hives</li> <li>• Red, hot skin</li> <li>• Sneezing</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call veterinarian for appointment.</li> <li>2. Follow recommended prescribed medicine.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Arthritis</b></p> <p>In cats and dogs, arthritis is most often caused by developmental or degenerative disease or by direct injury to a joint. Less often, arthritis is the result of an immune disorder. In addition, large dogs seem to be more susceptible to arthritis and its effects than small dogs or cats.</p> <p>Keep in mind that the degenerative joint disease that causes most arthritis is a chronic condition (example: dogs with hip dysplasia).</p> <p>Acute onset of the signs could be a signal of a potentially different condition (immune disorder).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lameness</li> <li>• Slow moving and obvious discomfort when having to move, especially in the morning</li> <li>• Less movement than usual</li> <li>• Altered gait especially after a day of exercise</li> <li>• Localized swelling of a joint or joints</li> <li>• Unnatural gait</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call veterinarian for appointment.</li> <li>2. Follow recommended prescribed medicine.</li> <li>3. Although anti-inflammatory medications are often effective, lameness due to injury or degenerative disease may require surgery for joint repair or replacement.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Automobile Antifreeze Poisoning</b></p> <p>Pets are often poisoned by radiator antifreeze due to its sweet taste. A very small amount can be fatal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal appears drunk (wobbly, confused)</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Excessive thirst and urination</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess, alert, attend.</li> <li>2. Induce vomiting if directed to do so by a veterinarian.</li> <li>3. If the pet is not vomiting, exceptionally stuporous, unconscious, or having great difficulty breathing AND veterinary care is not available or will be delayed within 30 minutes, administer activated charcoal.</li> <li>4. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>




## COMMON PET ILLNESSES OR CONDITIONS - CONT'D.



Type of Illness/Condition	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Birthing difficulties</b> (During or before birthing)</p> <p>Normally, Mother Nature does a fine job when it comes to animals giving birth. However, sometimes things do not go well, and you may have to provide assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active labor for more than several hours without any release of offspring.</li> <li>• More than a half-hour between an offspring, and pet is still straining.</li> <li>• Bloody discharge before birth.</li> <li>• Foul smelling discharge at any time.</li> <li>• Offspring showing but not fully discharged.</li> <li>• No signs of labor, but known additional offspring.</li> <li>• More than one week overdue.</li> <li>• Fetal membranes in vulva for more than 30 minutes with no offspring produced.</li> <li>• Biting at vulvar area.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call veterinarian and ask for advice. Pet may need to be rushed to veterinary clinic for medication or cesarean birth procedure.</li> <li>2. If offspring is showing but not entirely out, give the mother a few minutes to deliver the offspring naturally. If the puppy or kitten is not expelled, put on protective gloves and use a towel to gently grasp offspring. On the next contraction gently pull the offspring downward and backwards (away from pet) until free from mother. Do not pull too forcefully. If offspring does not come free, seek veterinary care immediately.</li> </ol>
<p><b>After birthing</b> (If offspring is not cleaned and/or umbilical cord is not severed by mother.)</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use a clean cloth and clean offspring, being sure to clean mouth and nose. Rub offspring enthusiastically.</li> <li>2. If possible, remove fluid from nose and mouth with a baby-suctioning bulb.</li> <li>3. If umbilical cord is still attached, be sure to handle it gently and do not pull on it. Take cord and tie thread or fishing line around cord. Then go up cord another half inch and tie off again. Once tied off, cut between ties.</li> </ol> <p><b><i>If offspring is not breathing:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be sure mouth and nose are clear.</li> <li>2. Point offspring's head downward and rub gently.</li> <li>3. If offspring is still not breathing, provide rescue breaths by placing your mouth over pet's mouth and nose and begin blowing gently. Between breaths, continue to rub pet gently to help stimulate breathing.</li> </ol> <p><b><i>NOTE:</i></b> Mother may eat placenta, so do not be alarmed. Birthing is very natural, and pet may prefer to be left alone during process. Be aware, but don't interfere unless there are obvious difficulties.</p>

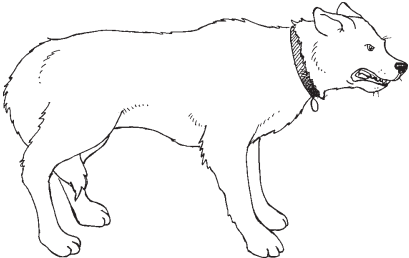
**COMMON PET ILLNESSES OR CONDITIONS - CONT'D.**

Type of Illness/Condition	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Bloat</b></p> <p>Bloat, also known as gastric dilatation (GD), occurs when an animal's stomach fills up with gas, food contents, liquid or a combination of the three and puts pressure on other vital organs. This condition is immediately life-threatening and usually affects large deep-chested dogs (such as German Shepherds and Great Danes). Often when a dog becomes bloated, its stomach twists—a condition referred to as Gastric Dilatation/Volvulus Syndrome (GDV). GDV and GD result in various derangements of the cardiovascular, respiratory and digestive systems that often result in shock and death of part or all of the stomach. Death will occur shortly after onset of GD and GDV unless veterinary care is delivered immediately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restlessness</li> <li>• Dry heaves or vomiting very little mucus</li> <li>• Swollen (distended) abdomen</li> <li>• Excessive panting</li> <li>• Altered level of consciousness (depression to coma)</li> <li>• Acute death</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>2. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Canine Parvovirus</b></p> <p>Parvovirus is a highly contagious, often fatal, disease most commonly found in dogs less than one year old. The origin of the virus is unknown.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden onset of fever, vomiting, diarrhea that may contain blood or mucous and loss of appetite</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not let pet eat or drink.</li> <li>2. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Chocolate Poisoning</b></p> <p>Chocolate poisoning occurs most frequently in dogs, although many species are susceptible. If your pet is not treated, your pet may become very sick or die. You should always keep chocolate out of your pet's reach. Baker's chocolate is the worst type as it contains the largest quantity of the toxic agent.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excitement</li> <li>• Agitation or nervousness</li> <li>• Increased thirst</li> <li>• Muscle spasms</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Seizures</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Induce vomiting if directed by a veterinarian or if veterinarian is not available within 30 minutes.</li> <li>2. If delayed transport, give pet activated charcoal. Do not administer activated charcoal to the pet if it is showing signs of vomiting, extreme lethargy/unconsciousness, slow heart rate or difficulty breathing.</li> <li>4. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>5. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Conjunctivitis</b></p> <p>Conjunctivitis is a term that refers to conditions that affect the pink tissue lining the inside of the eyelids. Typically, the condition is a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bacterial or viral infection.</li> <li>• Allergic reaction.</li> <li>• Defects in the eyelids.</li> <li>• Problem with tear ducts.</li> <li>• Chemical irritants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redness around eyes</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Itching or discomfort</li> <li>• Discharge, watery weeping eyes that form crust on edges of eyelids</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gently clean eyelids with warm water and gauze.</li> <li>2. Bring to veterinary clinic for medical treatment.</li> <li>3. Give pet prescribed medication.</li> </ol>

**COMMON PET ILLNESSES OR CONDITIONS - CONT'D.**

Type of Illness/Condition	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Dehydration</b></p> <p>Dehydration is an excessive loss of body fluids. This can occur after a pet has a bout of vomiting, diarrhea, fever or kidney failure.</p> <p>In addition, if a pet is without fluids for too long or has suffered burns, it may suffer from dehydration and need care.</p> <p>To determine whether your pet is dehydrated, you should pull the skin on the neck of the pet. If the skin stays up, it is a rough indicator sign that dehydration may be present. In addition, if you take a finger and rub it over pet's gums, your finger should slide. If it does not slide, or the gums feel sticky, your pet may be dehydrated.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allow free access to water.</li> <li>2. Seek veterinary care as dehydration can progress to shock.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Distemper</b></p> <p>Distemper is a contagious, viral disease that occurs worldwide in dogs and some other species.</p> <p>Widespread vaccination programs have dramatically reduced its incidence. Non-immunized dogs (especially puppies) or wild animals are at greatest risk for this disease that is transmitted through bodily secretions, especially respiratory secretions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conjunctivitis (see Conjunctivitis on page 34)</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Fever (refer to Normal Pet Temperature Chart on page 38)</li> <li>• Pneumonia</li> <li>• Rhinitis (runny nose)</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Ataxia "Wobbly" Gait</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If your dog has not been vaccinated for distemper, get the pet vaccinated!</li> <li>2. Diagnosis of distemper can be difficult and requires a full workup by a veterinarian.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Ear Infection</b></p> <p>Ear infections need to be treated. They vary in severity. Some infections are surface infections that are a result of a scratch or bite.</p> <p>Ear infections that go deep into ear canal can create pain and ultimately cause hearing loss. This type of infection requires medication. Mites, bacteria and fungi can cause ear infections.</p> <p>Ear infection is most commonly bacterial and/or fungal in origin and secondary to allergic problems in dogs. Your dog should have a workup for allergic skin disease.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Itching ear</li> <li>• Red, swollen ear</li> <li>• Pet rubbing ear or tilting head and whining</li> <li>• Bad smell coming from ear</li> <li>• Discharge from ear</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Never stick objects (Q-tips) into the ear.</li> <li>2. Bring pet to veterinary hospital.</li> <li>3. Administer prescribed medication.</li> </ol>

**COMMON PET ILLNESSES OR CONDITIONS - CONT'D.**

Type of Illness/Condition	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<p><b>Feline Calicivirus and Herpesvirus</b></p> <p>Feline calicivirus, also known as FCV, and Feline herpesvirus, also known as rhinotracheitis are common viral diseases that affects cats and is characterized by upper respiratory symptoms, pneumonia, arthritis and oral ulcers and sometimes ulcers on cat's paw. Outbreaks usually occur in overcrowded conditions and where cats may not receive adequate attention.</p> <p>Once your pet has been diagnosed with either of these viruses, your veterinarian may provide treatment to help clear up symptoms of the illness. Antibiotics may be prescribed to prevent secondary bacterial symptoms. Once your cat's immune system starts developing antibodies on its own, recovery is quick. Even after symptoms are no longer apparent, your cat may still be able to pass the virus for extended periods.</p> <p>Vaccination to prevent these diseases are available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sneezing</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Noisy breathing</li> <li>• Ulcerations in pet's mouth</li> <li>• Eye and nose discharge</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wipe away discharge from eyes and nose.</li> <li>2. Encourage pet to eat by feeding them more appetizing food (such as canned food).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Feline Leukemia</b></p> <p>Even with widespread use of vaccines, feline leukemia still remains one of the most important causes of morbidity and mortality in cats. Have your cat tested for feline leukemia. Your veterinarian will be able to counsel you on the pros and cons of vaccination for your particular cat in its particular environment.</p>		<p>Have your cat tested for feline leukemia.</p>
<p><b>Rabies</b></p> <p>Rabies is not common for house pets but does occur. We must vaccinate our pets against this deadly disease. Typically, wild animals carry the disease, but any mammal can become infected and carry the disease, posing a danger to pets and humans. If your pet has a run-in with an unknown animal and is bitten, you should contact your veterinarian immediately for advice regarding wound management, additional vaccination, etc. Remember to wear protective gloves when caring for your pet's injuries and to avoid any contact with your own mucous membranes such as mouth, nose and eyes or open wounds.</p> <p>In many areas of the United States, rabies has been endemic among raccoons and bats since the late 1970's. Remember that your safety is most important, and you should call your local animal control if you suspect an animal of being a carrier of rabies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in behavior (lack of appetite, irritability, agitation, nervousness, wanting to be left alone, timid animal may be vicious)</li> <li>• Paralysis with profuse drooling</li> </ul> 	<p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <p>Once symptoms appear, rabies is fatal. Rabies can be transmitted to humans.</p> <p><b>DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESUSCITATE AN ANIMAL THAT MAY BE INFECTED.</b></p> <p>The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians recommends that any unvaccinated dog or cat exposed to rabies be immediately destroyed.</p>

**COMMON PET ILLNESSES OR CONDITIONS - CONT'D.**

Type of Illness	Signs & Symptoms	First Aid Care
<b>Respiratory Distress</b> Respiratory distress (or difficult breathing) can result from injury or disease anywhere from the mouth and nostrils down to the tiny air sacs in the lungs and chest. Respiratory distress is immediately life threatening and could progress to respiratory arrest if left untreated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid, open mouth breathing</li> <li>• Breathing with an extended neck</li> <li>• Noise heard while breathing</li> <li>• Restlessness</li> <li>• Not wanting to lay on side</li> <li>• Irregular breathing pattern</li> <li>• Blue tongue and gums (also called cyanosis)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Calm and reassure pet.</li> <li>2. Monitor for respiratory arrest and begin rescue breathing, if necessary.</li> <li>3. Seek veterinary care immediately.</li> </ol>
<b>Seizures</b> Seizures look bad and can be scary to witness. Seizures usually only last from a few seconds to several minutes and are rarely fatal. If a seizure lasts more than two to three minutes, or if multiple seizures occur within a single day, seek veterinary care immediately. Seizures can elevate the body temperature severely and if they go on too long, can cause brain damage and death. Seizures are either congenital (inherited) or acquired through disease or injury. If your pet suffers a seizure, you should bring your pet to veterinary hospital for analysis and treatment. If it is required that your pet take medication to control seizure activity, do not stop or reduce medication without professional supervision, as this could bring on a seizure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to a seizure, your pet may begin to stare, show signs of nervousness, confusion, hiding or seeking affection because of being scared.</li> <li>• During the seizure, your pet may start trembling, having spasms, paddling of the limbs, chomping of the jaws and uncontrolled bowel and bladder control.</li> <li>• Afterwards pet may be disorientated, drool and act nervous or exhausted for a period of 5 minutes to a few hours.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not panic. Remain calm.</li> <li>2. Clear area so pet will not be injured if there is a lot of movement associated with seizure.</li> <li>3. After seizure activity ends, calm and reassure your pet. Cover pet if it continues to shake.</li> <li>4. Gently clean pet if it has soiled itself.</li> <li>5. Call veterinary hospital, describe the seizure, how long it lasted and how many times it has occurred. If the seizure lasted for more than two to three minutes, or your pet has multiple seizures in a single day, you should bring your pet to a veterinary hospital immediately.</li> </ol>
<b>Smoke Inhalation</b> Pet has been removed from a burning structure or has inhaled carbon monoxide from being in an unventilated area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid breathing</li> <li>• Labored breathing</li> <li>• Coughing</li> <li>• Bright red gums</li> <li>• Unconsciousness</li> <li>• Disoriented</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If pet is breathing, get plenty of fresh air to pet and monitor.</li> <li>2. Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible.</li> <li>3. Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ol>
<b>Urinary Tract Blockage</b> Occurs in both dogs and cats, most common in males.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent attempts to urinate that produce little or no urine</li> <li>• Extreme pain (crying out when attempting to urinate)</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Bloody urine</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Dehydration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THIS IS A TRUE MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND MAY REQUIRE IMMEDIATE LIFE-SAVING SURGERY.</li> <li>• Maintain as near normal a body temperature as possible</li> <li>• Make arrangements for immediate and safe transport of pet to a veterinary hospital.</li> </ul>

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## GENERAL WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Your pet should be seen by a veterinarian as soon as you notice any of the following general warning signs and symptoms:

- Straining or painful urination or defecation
- Excessive, frequent vomiting or periodic vomiting that persists for more than 24 hours
- Loss of appetite
- Excessive thirst
- Changes in behavior (irritability, agitation, nervousness, wanting to be left alone)
- Bloody urine or feces

## PET FIRST AID KIT CONTENTS

- Pet ID information
- Leash
- Muzzle
- Roller gauze
- 2x2, 4x4 sterile gauze pads
- 1" adhesive tape roll
- Elastic bandage roll
- Two triangular bandages
- Cotton swabs
- Tongue depressor
- Tweezers
- Triple antibiotic ointment
- Saline solution
- Latex or rubber gloves (two pair)
- Large irrigation syringe
- Medicine dropper
- Pepto-Bismal
- Benadryl tablet
- Cold pack
- Space blanket
- Pet CPR barrier
- Purel hand cleaner
- Toilet paper tube or paper towel tube (Some type of splinting material)
- Activated charcoal
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- First aid booklet



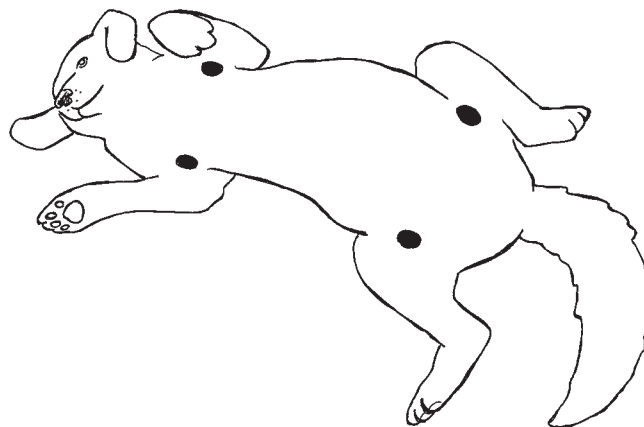
## WHAT IS NORMAL FOR MY PET?

	DOGS	CATS
Temperature	100-102.5	99-102.5
Respiration	10-30 per min.	10-32 per min.
Pulse/Heart Rate	60-120 per min.	120-180 per min.*
Average Gestation (Pregnancy) Period	63 days	63 days
Average Life Span	6-15 yrs.	12-18 yrs.**

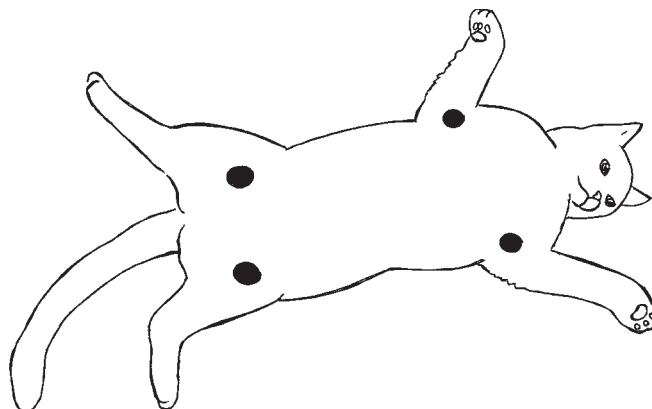
**\*TIP:** When checking pulse, count the number of heartbeats for 15 seconds and then multiply the number by a factor of 4.

**\*\*Cats** that live outdoors have a much shorter life expectancy than indoor cats.

### Pulse Points for Dogs



### Pulse Points for Cats





## ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS

**Capsules and Pills.** It is usually easiest to give a pill or capsule by hiding it in your pet's favorite food or snack (peanut butter works well for dogs). You can also crush the pill or empty the capsule and mix with soft canned food. Typically, foods with a stronger odor work best to mask medication smell.

If your pet does not eat the treat/food that the pill is hidden in, you will need to administer the pill manually. It is helpful to restrain cats in a towel with only their head protruding when manually giving pills. Likewise with dogs, a second person to help with restraint is ideal. Gently tilt back the head and pull gently downwards on the lower jaw. Attempt to place the pill or capsule on the back of the tongue. Close the mouth and hold closed for about 5 seconds. Gently rub the throat region to help stimulate swallowing. If you are uncomfortable with this procedure, ask your veterinarian for a demonstration.

**Ear Drops.** If your pet has floppy ears, lift the ear flap back onto

pet's head. Examine the ear passage and if necessary, clean with a gauze pad slightly soaked in warm water.

Apply drops to pet's ear and then massage the outside base of ear to distribute the medication. The medication should make a "squishing" sound when being massaged.

**Eye Drops.** Tilt pet's head back and place prescribed number of drops into the inside corner of eye. Be sure not to touch eye with dropper.

**Liquid Medication.** It is safest to use the plastic medicine dropper provided in your kit when giving liquid medication. You need not open pet's mouth to do so. Simply tilt the head slightly to one side and place the tip of dropper in the pouch at the corner of mouth, next to the gum line and squeeze dropper. The liquid will pass through pet's teeth. Pet will swallow automatically as a reflex.

**Skin Ointments.** To be effective, the ointment must reach the affected area. Therefore, you will often have to clip or shave area of wound or irritation site to access prior to ointment application.

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## HOW TO INDUCE VOMITING

*(see Poisoning on page 19)*

Selection will depend on what you have readily accessible:

- Mix one teaspoon of dry mustard with one cup of cold water. Give pet that weighs 35 pounds or more a half-cup. Give two teaspoons to a small pet,

OR

- Mix 3% of hydrogen peroxide with an equal part of water. Administer one teaspoon for every 10 pounds of body weight every ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes until vomiting occurs,

OR

- Administer one teaspoon of Syrup of Ipecac for every ten (10) pounds of body weight every ten to fifteen (15) minutes until vomiting occurs.

**NOTE:** Syrup of Ipecac should only be used upon the advice of a veterinarian.

## THE WELL BEING OF YOUR PET

There are already more than enough wonderful pets available. Stop by a shelter some time and that fact will be apparent to you. When you take a pet under your care and your intentions are not to professionally breed your pet, have your pet spayed or neutered when appropriate. Spaying or neutering your pet is not being cruel. It is being responsible.

Take good care of your pet's hygiene. Regular grooming and bathing will eliminate many pesky skin irritations, and your pet will smell and feel better. Dog chew sticks and bones clean your dog's teeth and promote healthy gums and better breath for your dog. Only give bones to your dog on the order of your veterinarian. There are a number of types of bones that could be harmful to your dog. Ask your veterinarian for pet hygiene advice.

Train your pet to stay in your yard or to walk with leash. Limit your pet's boundaries to a safe area free of moving vehicles and potentially dangerous wildlife. Be sure to put away all poisonous material that could harm your pet. Protect your pet from dangerous electrical cords or any other hazards that you can think of.

*Most of all, treat your pet well, and you will be rewarded with unconditional friendship and companionship throughout your pet's lifespan.*



**NOTES:**

## Pet Emergency Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ License No. \_\_\_\_\_

Vet's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Vet's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Vet's Emergency Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Vaccine Record

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



For questions or concerns regarding this program, call

American Safety & Health Institute  
1-800-246-5101  
[ashinstitute.org](http://ashinstitute.org)



