

First Aid for Pets

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1.) First aid kits:

Contents - same basic components as "human" first aid kits.

- 1.) antiseptic such as hydrogen peroxide, Betadine, or chlorhexidine
- 2.) bandage material
 - (1) roll adhesive tape
 - (2) rolls of Kling or other stretch gauze
 - (2) non-adherent dressings (Telfa type pads)
 - (1) scissors
 - (2) rolls of Vet-wrap or other overwrap bandage
 - (1) pack gauze squares
- 3.) antibiotic ointment - Neosporin, Bacitracin or "triple antibiotic" type
- 4.) Benadryl - for any allergic reactions (especially bee stings)
- 5.) tweezers- for foreign body or tick removal
- 6.) bland ophthalmic ointment
- 7.) ear cleaning solution (prepared or 50:50 isopropyl alcohol: distilled white vinegar combination)
- 8.) chemical ice pack and heat pack (optional)
- 9.) blanket
- 10.) emergency phone number(s) of veterinarian

2.) Common injuries (many of these require more than just First Aid so be prepared to give your vet details)

- a.) lameness - location, duration, swelling, change with exercise
- b.) lacerations (cuts) - location, depth, length, duration, bleeding
- c.) bee stings - location, number of stings, facial swelling, hives
- d.) hit by car - when, what part of body, ambulatory, conscious, breathing, shock
- e.) ear infections - duration, discharge, odor
- f.) foreign body (external) - location, type, duration

- g.) foreign body (internal) - type, duration, frequency of vomiting, blood
- h.) vomiting and diarrhea - character, recent eating history
- i.) ticks and fleas
- j.) blood in urine - early, late or throughout stream, male/female, frequency
- k.) intoxication (antifreeze, chocolate, cleaning fluids, etc.) - any known exposures
- l.) drowning
- m.) choking - what object, conscious and coughing or unconscious
- n.) cardiac arrest (see CPR)
- o.) torn toenail
- p.) seizure - how long, what was pet doing, age, any medications, toxins

3.) CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) BE CERTAIN THERE IS NO PULSE BEFORE STARTING (listen to chest for heartbeat where elbow touches chest)

- a.) Compression rates: 1-2 per second
 - 1.) small dog or cat - compress chest with one hand cupping chest
 - 2.) medium sized dog - compress with dominant hand with dog lying on its side and opposite hand supporting back
 - 3.) large dog - place dog's back against your knees (with you in kneeling position) or back against wall or immovable object. Dog lying on its side. Use two hand technique as in "human" CPR.
- b.) Artificial respiration (breathing) rates: 1 breath every 5 seconds (or after every 5th compression if working alone)
 - 1.) technique-
 - a.) be sure the airway is clear
 - b.) in general the muzzle is closed with hand wrapped around it and your mouth is placed over the nose. Blow only enough air to cause the chest to rise. Do not blow until you meet resistance or the lungs will be injured.