

# FIRST AID TIPS

*The following recommendations are not meant to be a replacement for veterinary care, but rather as a guide to assist you in caring for your pet in the time between the onset of the emergency and presenting your pet for veterinary care.*

## **Torn/Broken Toenail:**

The most effective solution to stop bleeding is Quick Stop (styptic powder). This product can be purchased at a pet store. If you do not have access to the styptic powder you can use flour, cornstarch, or a tea bag.

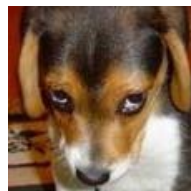
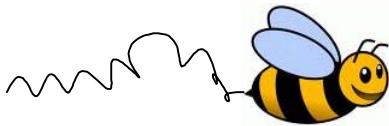


## **Electrocution:**



Rabbits and young pups are sometimes found to have chewed through an electrical cord resulting in self-electrocution. You may or may not see wounds on your pet's lips or mouth as a result of electrocution.

Your pet may seem to have had no negative effects from the electrocution, however we recommend immediate veterinary care as the onset of pulmonary damage may take 12-24 hours. It is best to seek immediate veterinary care so that should any breathing difficulty develops, it can immediately be addressed in a controlled professional environment.



## **Ocular Foreign Body or Scratch:**

Eye issues are always emergencies requiring immediate veterinary care. Should your pet get sprayed in the eyes with any type of chemical, get a bug or plant seed in the eye, hold the eye closed, develop reddening of the eye or develop discharge from the eye you may flush the eye with sterile saline/eye wash, then seek immediate veterinary care.

## **Vomiting:**

If your pet vomits once or twice during the day, food and water should be withheld from your pet for the remainder of the day.

If there is no additional vomiting, offer small amounts of food and water the next morning. When starting to feed your pet you should feed small but frequent meals of a bland diet (ie: boiled ground hamburger/chicken and rice). Should the vomiting persist, worsen or reoccur or contain blood seek immediate veterinary care. If you suspect ingestion of a foreign object or toxin by your pet seek immediate veterinarian care.

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Animal Poison Control (ASPCA) 1-888-426-4435

Animal Emergency Center - Novi 248-348-1788

Animal Emergency Center - Rochester 248-651-1788

## **Active Bleeding:**

Should your pet become injured and start to bleed apply a clean cloth to the sight of bleeding and apply pressure. Maintain pressure until the bleeding stops or your pet is transported to a veterinarian for medical care.

If bleeding is not stopped within 5 minutes veterinary intervention is required. Should the bleeding soak a cloth within less than 1/2 hour your pet requires immediate DVM care. If you are able to stop the bleeding but it reoccurs seek immediate DVM care.

Should the bleeding stop, clean the wound with dilute Betadine or Nolvasan. Flush the wound with saline then apply sterile lubrication to the wound. Apply a telfa pad to the wound then cover with gauze followed by vet wrap creating a protective barrier for the wound against further soiling. Seek immediate DVM care. Your pet may require sutures or oral antibiotics.



## **Exposure to Extreme Temperatures:**

Do not leave your pet outside without access to an insulated shelter when the outside temperature is greater than 90 degrees Fahrenheit or below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. An acceptable shelter consists of an area that provides insulation from the wind, cold and direct sun (ie. insulated dog house, covered run). Your pet should always have free access to fresh clean water.



Should your pet develop heat stroke, they may become lethargic, weak and stumble. Immediately remove your pet from the hot environment, then cool their body with cool, but not cold water. If your pet is exposed to cold temperatures, they may become lethargic, reluctant to move or have discoloration of the skin on their extremities. Should your pet show any of these signs as a result of exposure to cold temperatures, please remove them from the cold and start to warm them with warm blankets and warm water bottles. Always seek immediate veterinary care for additional treatment.



# FIRST AID TIPS

## **Difficulty Breathing:**

If your pet develops difficulty breathing, carefully open its mouth and look for any foreign objects.

If you see an object and can remove it without pushing it further down the throat or getting bit, remove the object. Then immediately seek veterinary care.



## **Hit by moving vehicle:**

If your pet is hit by a moving vehicle seek immediate veterinary care. Should active bleeding occur please treat bleeding as noted herein.

Even if no obvious injuries are noted seek immediate veterinary care. Your pet may be in substantial pain and may bite you even if they normally would not bite you. Please be careful. Watch for signs of shock: irregular breathing and/or dilated pupils. If you suspect a fracture, DO NOT TRY TO SET IT by pulling or tugging on the limb.

Should your pet be unconscious or unable to walk, secure your pet to a flat board prior to moving. It is ideal to have one person sit with your pet while transporting it to the veterinarian to calm and monitor it.

## **Bite Wounds:**

Check the wound for debris. If significant, flush wound with saline or clean water. Wrap large open wounds to keep them clean. Apply pressure to profusely bleeding wounds. Do not use a tourniquet. Bite wounds often become infected and need professional care. Call your veterinarian immediately.

## **Burns:**

Burns may be caused by chemical, electrical, or other heat sources. Symptoms may include: singed hair, blistering, swelling and redness of skin. Flush the burn immediately with large amounts of cool, running water and apply an ice pack for 15-20 minutes. Do not place the ice pack directly on the skin- wrap the pack in a light towel or other cover.

If the burn appears to have been caused by dry chemicals or if the animal has large quantities of dry chemicals on its skin, brush them off - DO NOT wash with water as this may activate some dry chemicals. Call your veterinarian immediately.

## **Seizures**

Seizure symptoms may include: salivation, loss of control of urine or stool, violent muscle twitching and rigidity, temporary loss of control of limbs and balance and loss of consciousness.

During a seizure keep your pet away from any objects (including furniture) that might hurt it. Do not try to restrain the pet. Time the seizure (they usually last 2-3 minutes).

After the seizure has stopped, keep your pet as warm and quiet as possible and contact your veterinarian. If multiple seizures occur (cluster seizures or continual seizing > 5 minutes) immediately take your pet to your veterinarian or an animal emergency hospital.

## **Handling an Injured Pet**

If your pet is injured, it could be in pain and is also most likely scared and confused. You need to be careful to avoid getting hurt, bitten or scratched. Never assume that even the gentlest pet will not bite or scratch if injured. Pain and fear can make animals unpredictable or even dangerous.

Call your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary clinic before you move your pet so they can be ready for you when you arrive.

## **Place muzzle if necessary to reduce chances of being bitten:**

- Dogs may be muzzled with towels, stockings or gauze rolls.
- Cats and other small animals may be wrapped in a towel to restrain them
- Make sure your pet is not wrapped in the towel so tightly to breath
- Make sure your pet's nose is not covered so it can breathe (ask us how to properly muzzle your pet!)
- NEVER muzzle your pet if it is vomiting.

## **Transporting your pet:**

- Keep your pet confined to a small area to reduce the risk of additional injury
- Pet carriers work well, or you can use a box or other container (but make sure your pet has enough air)
- For larger dogs you can use a board, toboggan/sled, door, floor mat, throw rug, blanket or similar item to act as a stretcher.

## **Be Prepared**

Know who to contact and where to go in case of an emergency. Familiarize yourself with basic first aid procedures and have your own First Aid Kit ready (see our example kit).

Always remember that any first aid administered to your pet should be followed by immediate veterinary care. First aid care is not a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until it receives veterinary treatment.

