FIRST AID for your PET

TOP TIPS

1. Stay calm - pets pick up on anxiety
2. Do NOT give pain relief - it could interfere with the vet’s treatment
3. Keep a well-stocked first aid kit
4. Phone ahead - the vet will prepare for your pet’s arrival

Cuts and Wounds
Non-bleeding wounds – flush well with sterile saline or clean water
Bleeding cuts – Apply pressure for 2 – 5 minutes
• If bleeding continues apply a pressure bandage
• If blood strikes through the bandage apply another, firmer layer
• Only apply a tourniquet only as a last resort and loosen every 10 minutes

Burns
• Hold under cold running water for 10 minutes then get to the vet
• Do NOT apply butter

Choking
• Open the pet’s mouth and remove any obvious obstruction
• If the blockage is too far back, hold the pet with his head down
• If the pet’s lips are blue (not pink) and he is drooling heavily then:
• Deliver 5 sharp blows between the shoulder blades

Electric Shock
• Turn off the mains or power to the appliance
• Remove the pet from the cables and take to the vet
• If the pet is unconscious administer CPR (see separate box)

Fits
• Do NOT put try to pull the pet’s tongue out (you will get bitten)
• Make the animal safe by putting padding between him and sharp objects
• Turn off lights and make the room quiet (Turn off radio / TV)
• Call the vet

Heatstroke
• Move pet to cool place
• Have a fan blow air over the pet
• Wet his tongue and allow the pet to drink
• Soak his fur in cool water
• Apply an ice pack or bag of frozen peas to his head

Insect Sting
• Identify the insect if possible
• Remove the stinger
• If a wasp – dab vinegar on the stung area
• If a bee – dab a solution of bicarbonate of soda on the stung area

Poisoning
• Do NOT make your dog vomit without speaking to a vet first
• (Some substances cause harm on the way back up)
• Make a note of what the dog ate
• Get to a vet asap (speed is of the essence)

Pet CPR

Is your pet breathing?
•

Does he have a heartbeat?
•

Artificial Respiration
Wrap a hand around the pet’s muzzle to seal his lips. Place your mouth over his nose. Blow firmly enough to make the chest rise and fall once. Repeat every 5 seconds

Cardiac massage
Lie the pet on his side. One hand under the chest and one on top, just behind the elbow. Press inwards to squash the chest by 25% to 33 %. Do this rapidly (2 compressions per second).

Both artificial respiration and cardiac massage
• 10 cardiac compressions over 5 secs
• 1 breath for 1 second
• Repeat

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