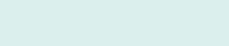




DOG MEDICAL EMERGENCY GUIDE: ARE YOU PREPARED?



Caring pet parents: If your furry friend experiences a health emergency, do you know what to do? Below are common emergency situations that affect dogs, the possible causes and signs of each condition, and first aid tips for handling the situation.



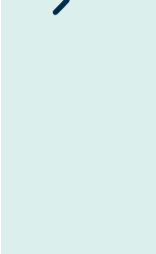
ALLERGIC REACTIONS

CAUSES: Insect bites and stings, food, environmental allergens, vaccines and medications

SYMPTOMS: Fever, vomiting, diarrhea, hives, scratching, chewing at paws, swollen face or eye puffiness, trouble breathing, weakness, collapse

WHAT TO DO:

- Call your vet ASAP and ask about an oral dose of antihistamine
- If your pet was stung by an insect, remove the stinger with tweezers; apply a paste of baking soda and water; use an ice pack to calm swelling and reduce pain
- Observe your pet carefully and give them fresh water



SEIZURES

CAUSES: Low blood sugar, kidney or liver disease, toxin ingestion, trauma, brain diseases, idiopathic epilepsy

SYMPTOMS: Uncontrollable shaking, tremors, odd facial movements, inability to stand, loss of bowel or urinary control, making a swimming motion with the paws, acting distant or unresponsive

WHAT TO DO:

- Call your vet and get your dog to the veterinary hospital ASAP
- Don't try to restrain your pet during a seizure
- Keep your hands away from his mouth to prevent accidental biting
- Move objects that can injure your pet out of her way

CAUSES: Household toxins such as antifreeze, snail and slug bait, rat poison, flea and tick products, chocolate, OTC pain relievers, raisins/grapes/currants, onions/garlic, xylitol sugar-free sweetener, some plants, alcoholic beverages, cannabis

SYMPTOMS: Weakness, disorientation, vomiting, tremors, seizures, excessive salivation

WHAT TO DO:

- Treatment should begin immediately, so call your vet ASAP
- If you know what caused the poisoning, keep the product or package handy when you call
- Take your pet to a veterinary hospital right away
- In case you can't reach your vet or you're unsure if a substance is toxic, call the National Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435



POISONING



CARDIAC

CAUSES: Congestive heart failure, pericardial effusion, urgent bradyarrhythmia, aortic thromboembolism

SYMPTOMS: Weakness, collapse, blue or gray gum color, rapid or slow heart rate, increased respiratory rate, respiratory distress, coughing, bloated abdomen, vomiting

WHAT TO DO:

- Seek veterinary care ASAP
- Limit your pet's activity; carry your dog if possible

GASTRIC DILATATION VOLVULUS (BLOAT)

CAUSES: Unknown, but extreme stress (such as flying) and feeding a dog just before exercising may increase the risk; dogs with high levels of anxiety are more prone to bloat; susceptible breeds are medium- to-large, deep-chested dogs such as the Great Dane, Doberman, German Shepherd, Labrador, and Greyhound

SYMPTOMS: Non-productive retching or vomiting, excessive salivation, restlessness, anxiety, signs of abdominal distension/pain

WHAT TO DO:

- Seek veterinary care immediately
- This is serious surgical emergency and could be life-threatening if not treated ASAP



OVERHEATING

CAUSES: Being in the heat for an extended period of time; dog breeds with shorter faces (Bulldog, Pug, Boxer), thick coats (Akita, Husky), and dogs that are obese or have medical conditions are most susceptible

SYMPTOMS: Excessive panting or salivation, weakness/lethargy, inability to stand, lack of coordination/disorientation, vomiting, diarrhea, bright red tongue and/or gums, body temperature above 105°F

WHAT TO DO:

- Move your dog out of the direct sun or heat
- Keep your dog calm; do not try to stop him from panting, as this is how he cools himself
- Gently spray or apply cool or tepid water, or cool wet towels, to the dog; air conditioning and fans help
- After starting cooling measures, seek veterinary care; temps over 105° can be life-threatening
- Track the rectal temperature every few minutes; at 103° or 104°, stop the cooling measures
- Encourage, but don't force, the dog to drink water

CAUSES: Swallowing a foreign object (including toys that are too small for the dog's size), too-tight collar, trachea collapse, asthma

SYMPTOMS: Forceful coughing, drooling, gagging/retching, salivation, keeping the mouth open, pawing at the mouth, rubbing the face against the ground

WHAT TO DO:

- Remove the object if it's reachable; cut off the tight cord or collar
- If you do remove the obstruction, bring your pet to the vet to ensure that the choking did not harm her
- Perform the Heimlich maneuver to try to dislodge the object
- If your pet's pulse slows, begin CPR at 120 chest compressions per minute
- If you can't remove the object, seek help at an emergency animal hospital

CHOKING

BLEEDING

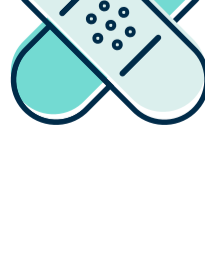


CAUSES: Exterior bleeding is caused by sharp objects or broken glass; interior bleeding results from being hit by a car or other heavy object, or falling from a great distance

SYMPTOMS: Exterior bleeding has obvious signs; symptoms of interior bleeding include painful or swollen abdomen, pale gums (with red/blue speckling possible), blood in vomit/urine/stools/saliva/nasal discharge, trouble breathing, weakness/collapse

WHAT TO DO:

- For exterior bleeding: remove dirt from the wound and clean with water or saline solution; press down firmly on the area with gauze pads or clean cloths to stop the bleeding; wrap large wounds with gauze or a clean towel
- Take your pet to the vet as soon as you can, because antibiotics may be needed to prevent infection
- If an object has impaled your pet, do not remove it; stabilize the object near the area of penetration and get to an emergency pet facility immediately
- Interior bleeding must be treated by a vet; seek emergency care ASAP



NOTE: In an emergency situation, there is no substitute for proper medical care administered by a licensed veterinarian.

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