

# PET FIRST AID



VetERinary Specialists  
of the Rockies



Use our checklist for key items to stock your pet first aid kit. Whether for camping, hiking, in your car, or in your home, be prepared for your next pet emergency. Check your kit every 6 months for replacements or updates.

## WOUND CARE & BANDAGES

- Non-stick, self-adhering bandages and/or gauze roll & tape
- Sterile gauze pads
- Styptic powder
- Antiseptic wipes
- Antimicrobial wash & ointment/spray (Use the smallest amount possible to prevent ingestion.)
- Cotton balls & Q-tips

## MEDICATIONS

*Always consult a veterinarian before giving any medication to your pet, but have these on hand in case your vet gives you the go-ahead in an emergency.*

- 3% Hydrogen peroxide
- Sterile eye wash solution
- Antihistamine such as Benadryl for mild allergic reactions (Make sure it only contains diphenhydramine and no other cold medication.)
- Antacids

## TOOLS

*Be sure to sanitize all tools such as thermometers and tweezers before use.*

- Digital thermometer and lubricant
- Tweezers
- Blunt-tipped scissors to remove hair and cut bandages
- Small flashlight or headlamp
- Magnifying glass
- Needleless plastic syringe for giving medications or fluids or for flushing eyes

## MISCELLANEOUS

- A card with phone numbers for your veterinarian, a 24-hour emergency clinic and animal poison control (The ASPCA Poison Control Hotline number is **1.888.426.4435**)
- Collapsible water bowl and bottle of water
- 2 pairs latex or rubber gloves to protect you and your pet
- Hand sanitizer
- Extra leash & temporary muzzle (for dogs)
- Towel or blanket
- Treats (Do not feed pets who are vomiting, are unable to swallow normally, or are having seizures.)
- Pet photo and important information about your pet's medical history kept in a waterproof bag

Our privately-owned veterinary hospital is open 24/7/365 for pet emergencies. When in doubt, call us, or bring your pet directly to our Castle Rock location.

Check our website for information or talk to your vet about situations when immediate professional care may be required. This advice is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice.

774 Maleta Lane, Castle Rock, CO 80108 | 303.660.1027 | VetsoftheRockies.com

# Handling Common Pet Emergencies

## TAKING TEMPERATURE

Your pet's temperature will be taken rectally. Use a digital thermometer that reads to at least 105° F and know how to operate the thermometer including how long it takes to get an accurate reading. Apply a small amount of lubricant to the end of the thermometer. If possible, have someone gently restrain your pet while you lift the tail only as much as needed to slide only the metal tip of the thermometer into your pet's rectum (about one-half inch). Normal temperature for dogs typically ranges from 101°F to 102.5°F, while the normal temperature for cats ranges from 100°F to 102.5°F.

## BLEEDING

Pets in pain can be unpredictable, so take precautions such as using a muzzle and/or gently restraining your pet. If your pet is bleeding, apply direct pressure to the wound with a gauze pad or sanitary cloth. If blood soaks through, apply additional layers rather than removing the initial pad which can disrupt clotting. Elevating the affected area while still applying direct pressure can also help. If your pet is bleeding excessively or if you suspect internal bleeding, seek professional help for your pet.

## POISONING

Know the warning signs such as drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, staggering, disorientation, and unconsciousness. As soon as you suspect poisoning call your vet or poison control hotline (the **ASPCA Poison Control Hotline number is 1.888.426.4435**), or take your pet to the nearest emergency vet. Never induce vomiting unless directed by a professional. If the toxin is on your pet's fur or skin, put on protective gloves and remove as much of the substance as possible using clean towels or rags. Never use water or other solvents to remove toxins unless specifically directed by your vet.

## CHOKING

Do your best to restrain your pet. If your pet is choking because of a cord, string, or other item around their neck, use a pair of scissors to carefully cut away the item. If your pet is choking on something lodged in their mouth or throat, open the mouth to see if you can locate the object. If you can see the item, try to swipe it away with your finger. If you can't see the object or aren't able to dislodge the object by swiping it away, don't poke your finger down your pet's throat. This can cause injury or push the object farther down. Even if you do manage to remove the offending object, it's best to bring your pet for a follow up visit to rule out any damage or further complications. Taking a first aid class that includes the Heimlich maneuver and pet CPR can also help in a situation where your pet is choking.

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