

First Aid Information

Always consult a veterinarian for the health of your dog. This first aid list is only a guide. Check with your vet for your dog's specific health care needs. Be prepared to restrain or muzzle your dog while treating. Even the most gentle dog may bite when he is hurt or in pain.

Symptoms/Type		
Burns	Small burns	Apply cold water soaks or ice packs for 20 minutes to relieve pain. Clip away hair and wash gently with a surgical soap. Blot dry. Apply a topical antibiotic ointment (Furacin, Neosporin). Applying a loose-fitting gauze dressing.
	Chemical Burns	Flush with copious amounts of water.
	Acid	Neutralize by rinsing with baking soda (four tablespoons to a pint of water). Bandage loosely.
	Alkali	Neutralize by rinsing with a weak vinegar solution (pint of water/2tbls). Blot dry and apply antibiotic ointment. Loose bandage.
Choking & Asphyxiation	Straining & gasping to breath, extreme anxiety/weakness	If shallow or not breathing, start mouth-to-nose respiration immediately.
	Loss of consciousness dilated pupils, tongue & mucus membranes turn blue	If you hear air sucking from open wound in the chest, seal off chest by pinching skin together over wound.
	Exception; carbon monoxide poisoning causes bright red membranes.	Drowning: turn the dog upside down holding back legs, let water run out of windpipe. Then position the dog with the head lower than the chest (on a slope, or with a roll beneath the chest) and begin artificial respiration. If heart stoppage, heart massage.
		After crisis, seek veterinary aid.
Dehydration	Inadequate fluid intake. Fever increases the loss of water. Prolonged vomiting and diarrhea.	Noticeably dehydrated; you should seek veterinary attention
	Loss of skin elasticity. (Pick up fold of skin on dog's back. Should spring back.) Dryness of the mouth	Mild cases(no vomiting); give fluids by mouth. Can give an electrolyte solution into the cheek pouch by bottle or medicine syringe. Balanced electrolyte solutions for treating dehydration in children are available at drug stores.
		Ringer's lactate, mixed 50/50 with 5% dextrose in water. Also, Pedialyte is suitable for dogs. Give at a rate of 2 to 4cc per pound body weight/hour based dehydration severity.

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Symptoms/Type		
Wounds	2 main objectives: Stop the bleeding, and then prevent infection. Be prepared to restrain or muzzle before treating wound.	Control bleeding by pressure dressing or tourniquet(around leg or tail). Pressure over the artery in the groin or axill- alternate method. Place gauze or pad on the wound and press firmly. Hold in place until vet on site. Loosen tourniquet every 30 minutes for 2-3 minutes for blood circulation to limb.
	Do not use hydrogen peroxide	All wounds are contaminated. Make sure your hands and instruments are clean. On a fresh wound, clip the hair back, start at edge, to enlarge treated area. Cleanse the edges of the wound with a damp gauze or pad. Irrigate the wound with clean tap water. Apply antibiotic ointment & bandage. If fresh wound has clotted, do not wipe.
	Lacerations over one-half inch long should be sutured. Do not suture bite wounds	Old wounds covered with scab or pus are cleansed with antibacterial or surgical soap. Blot dry. Apply antibiotic ointment & bandage. Change dressings frequently & apply fresh ointment.
Heatstroke	Rapid, frantic, noisy breathing. Tongue and mucus membranes are bright red, the saliva is thick, dog frequently vomits.	
	Temperature is over 104 degrees F or unsteady on his feet	Dog should be cooled by immersion in a tub of cold water. If this is impossible, hose your dog down with a garden hose.
	Temperature over 106 degrees F, dog is near collapse	Give a cold water enema. A more rapid temperature drop is imperative. Cool to a rectal temperature of 103 degrees F.

Symptoms/Type		
Acute Painful Abdomen	Emergency that may lead to death unless treatment is started ASAP.	Critical illness. Get dog to vet immediately. Call ahead to alert clinic canine patient in route. If poisoned, take container/label with you.
	Onset of abdominal pain with vomiting, retching, extreme restlessness and inability to find a comfortable position, crouching, trembling, whining and crying, grunting and labored breathing.	Cause may be one of the following: Parvovirus, Bloat, Torsion of the stomach, Acute pancreatitis, Poisoning, Urinary stones, Internal injury, Rupture of the pregnant uterus, Peritonitis, Intestinal obstruction, Bladder rupture
	Abdomen extremely painful when pressed. Later stages the dog's pulse becomes weak, mucus membranes pale and the dog goes into convulsions and/or shock, coma.	If dog has licked anti-freeze, then time is critical.
Shock	Weakness, cold extremities, panting & hard breathing, coma. Usually associated with severe injury.	Keep dog warm and quiet(use soothing tone of voice), cover with blanket, stop bleeding if present. If breathing has stopped, apply CPR.
		Rush to veterinarian. Blood transfusions and injections may save dog's life.
Snake Bite	Rapidly increasing swelling, pain, weakness, difficulty breathing, prostration	Determine if snake is poisonous, if so, identify snake type. Keep dog cool, calm and quiet. Carry dog if possible to avoid aerobic activity.
		Rush to veterinarian for immediate treatment. Call ahead to alert clinic

Symptoms/Type

Fracture	Limping, severe pain, leg dangles loosely	Muzzle dog(do not allow him to over heat) handle carefully, control bleeding, avoid shock. Splint fracture if possible.
	Do not attempt to set the break or push back into place.	Open or compound fractures should be dressed with a wet dressing applied over the opening and or bone.
		Rush to veterinarian for X-rays & setting of bones in place. Young dogs have excellent chance for full recovery.
Eye Infections & Injuries	Tearing, discharge, red, inflamed	Look for foreign objects or injury in the form of tiny cuts, scratches on surface or penetrating wound.
	Continuous pawing over eye area. Aversion to light. Wincing and blinking.	Clean matted material with eye wash or warm boric acid solution, apply appropriate medication.
	The eye is a delicate structure, easily damaged. Consult your veterinarian for all eye conditions.	