

Common emergencies that may present at home and what you can do:

Bite wounds/bleeding wounds:

These are all too common and can happen at any time, they range from minor bites to severe open bleeding wounds. Remember to stay calm, if the wound is rather large and bleeding excessively make use of the bandages to apply pressure to control bleeding. Place gauze swabs on the area and bandage with crepe and secure with Elastoplast. If wound is small and not bleeding excessively make use of clean water to flush out the wound you may then place a small amount of wound ointment into the wound then bandage if needed. Always treat bite wounds with caution all of them do need to be checked out weather big or small so take your pet to the vet as soon as you can.

Poisonings:

Keep all poisonous materials out of animals reach. Should your pet have been poisoned or ingest poison at home you need to act quickly. If time allows and patient can eat feed him some crushed charcoal pills. Contact your vet immediately and have information at hand like: name of poison product, active ingredients how much poison ingested. Your vet may offer additional advice on what to do or explain to you how to induce vomiting in your animal. If you happen to find your dog or cat haven eaten "two step" take him immediately to the vet or emergency hospital always contact your vet to make sure they are available and are aware of the incoming emergency.

Hit by cars (trauma):

Common emergencies treat these with caution they often involve broken bones/ribs internal injuries and are often very painful, make use of the muzzle to prevent your animal biting you. Remember to stay calm, asses your pet and calm him down by talking softly and gently. Any excessive bleeding can be controlled with pressure bandages also cover any bones that may protrude from wounds or any tissues protruding from any wounds. Make sure there is a heartbeat and breathing by putting your ear on the chest, if your animal is responsive to you his heart will still be beating. If breathing difficult try to calm your animal down and transport him as soon as possible. Place your pet on a stretcher or blanket, cover with a space blanket and transport to the vet carefully and quickly avoiding too much stress.

Snake bite and bee stings:

Snake bites must always be treated with caution we just never know what snake it may be and how toxic it is. Many species of venomous snakes are common in our area so be careful when walking dogs in long grass or rocky areas. Should your dog be bitten by a snake load him/her into the car and bring him/her as soon as possible, contact your veterinarian and inform them of the emergency and enquire if they carry antivenom at the hospital. If venom has been spat into the eyes as seen by swollen sore eyes flush out the eyes immediately with luke warm water, you can hold the eyes open under an open tap for a few minutes and then bring to the vet where they will examine the eyes and prescribe medications. Bee

stings can be serious but often we notice extreme swellings over the body, eyes and face one can give them an Allergex according to your doctor's recommendations and then transport them to the vet for further treatments or check-up.

Bloating or hard stomach:

If you find your dog with enlarged hard stomach with extreme discomfort, retching and salivation load him in the vehicle and take him to the nearest vet immediately. Contact the hospital and tell them of the emergency. With this condition don't wait it is serious and needs treatment as soon as possible.

Near Drowning:

If you should find your dog in this situation remove them immediately from the cold environment if still breathing dry them off and make use of blankets hot water bottles to keep warm transport to the vet like this. If no breathing or heart beat you can try CPR in a last effort attempt to revive your pet.

Basic CPR for animals:

Basic CPR for our animals can be used at home but only if you are sure there is no breathing and heartbeat. The technique used is a last resort and is often unsuccessful despite your or our best efforts but sometimes can be lifesaving. If you can remember the short acronym ABC for Airways Breathing Circulatory then you can try to do CPR. Make sure of a pulse and respiratory movements, put your ear on the chest just behind the shoulder listen for a beating heart and look for respiratory movements (up and down movements of the chest). If there is no pulse or respiration then :

1. Make sure the Airway is clear and open; remove any obstructions from the mouth nostrils or throat.
2. Place your mouth over the nose of the animal and Breath into their nose while holding the mouth closed until the chest raises stops breathing and repeat.
3. Provide Circulatory effort by placing your hands on top of one another over the side of the chest and compresses downwards quickly repeat this motion interrupted only to breath for the pet. Listen often for a pulse and watch for breathing and try to transport to the hospital as soon as you can.

Remember the best thing in an emergency is to always stay calm it will help, keep emergency number close by at all times, asses your pet carefully for bleeding, breathing and heart beats and always transport them carefully to your veterinarian, don't put your life and other people's lives at risk by driving recklessly stay calm and work quickly and always keep your emergency hospital up to date on your incoming emergency.

A wonderful "go to" book to have in case of pet emergencies is: **Emergency first aid for your pet by Susan Holdsworths.** Also available at Vetland Animal Hospital