

FIRST AID

This document is designed to help you cope with some common problems your pet may face throughout his/her life. It is always important to ring us if you are worried about your pet.

HEAT STROKE

Heat stroke can be a very serious condition. There are some simple precautions you can take to prevent your animal suffering from this.

NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A HOT CAR. If you need to take your animal in the car on a hot day, try and cool the car down first by turning on cool fans etc. and make sure water is available.

If walking dogs on very hot days, walk in the early morning or evening when it is cooler.

Signs: Collapse, panting, feels hot to touch.

Treatment: Hose down for at least 10 minutes with cold water and contact the veterinary clinic immediately. If transporting, keep cool with soaking wet towels. Offer cold water to drink little and often.

HEAT DAMAGE TO PADS

Avoid walking dogs on hot ground, such as pavements and sand, in the midday as this can cause their pads to blister and is very painful.

Treatment: Bathe paws in cold water for at least 10 minutes and seek veterinary advice if the paws have blistered.

DIFFICULTY BREATHING

Signs: Choking, gasping for breath, wheezing, mouth breathing.

Treatment: Try to make sure the airway is clear, but take care not to get bitten! Contact the veterinary clinic immediately. Try to keep your pet calm and still.

BLEEDING

Minor: If it is a small wound, apply pressure for at least 3-5 minutes. The wound can be bathed twice daily with salt water (1tsp of salt to 1 pint of water), or more often if needed.

Severe: If it is a more severe wound, again, apply pressure for at least 3-5 minutes. If using a dressing, DO NOT change it once it is soaked through, but apply a dressing on top. Keep the animal warm and contact the veterinary clinic immediately.

Take care not to apply too much pressure if you suspect a fracture. It is NOT advisable to use a tourniquet.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

If this happens call the veterinary clinic immediately.

Treatment: Keep the animal warm with blankets, but do not apply direct heat. Try to keep it still and on a flat surface, particularly if you suspect a spinal injury. If bleeding, treat as previously explained.

If moving dogs, muzzle, as pain can cause even very friendly dogs to bite. Make sure you have assistance in moving a large dog to prevent injury to the dog and yourself.

FRACTURES

Signs: Pain, swelling, loss of function, deformity, unnatural mobility, grating sound.

Treatment: Minimise movement to avoid further damage. Control haemorrhage if bleeding occurs (see bleeding), but do not apply too much pressure. Keep the animal still, warm and comfortable, until a veterinary surgeon has taken over.

POISONING

Signs: Can depend on the type of poisoning but some signs could include, salivation, vomiting, collapse, fitting, unconsciousness. Please be aware that some plants including lilies and poinsettias are poisonous.

Treatment: Call the veterinary clinic immediately and give details of what you think your animal has been poisoned with. If you are advised to go to the vets, try to bring the packet of what your animal has eaten.

DO NOT make your animal vomit if the poison is corrosive, always seek advice from a veterinary surgeon.

CHOCOLATE POISONING

Chocolate contains Thiobromine which is very poisonous to dogs. Dark chocolate is particularly dangerous. If you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate, contact the veterinary clinic as soon as possible.

Signs: Salivation, collapse, fitting, unconsciousness.

FITTING

Signs: Collapse or unconsciousness, dazed expression, unresponsive, paddling of limbs, urinating and defecation, salivation, grinding teeth, violent shaking and jaw champing.

Treatment: Let the seizure run its course and time it, as a couple of minutes can seem a lot longer in this situation. Keep the animal in a quiet and darkened room. Do not move the animal, move objects to prevent it harming itself. Let the animal recover before handling as this could stimulate another fit. Contact the veterinary clinic.

GRAPE AND RAISIN POISONING

We advise against feeding your puppy/dog grapes and raisins as they can cause kidney failure.

VOMITING & DIARRHOEA

If your pet has diarrhoea and is also vomiting, it is important to seek veterinary advice.

Treatment: Treatment may vary depending on individual cases, whether there is just diarrhoea or just vomiting, age of animal, circumstances etc. If you are worried about your pet, ring a veterinary surgeon and they can advise the best course of treatment.

GRASS SEEDS

This is a very common problem in the summer months. Seeds can often get stuck in ears, nose, eyes and paws. Try to avoid walking your dog in long grass.

Signs: Head shaking, sneezing, biting at feet, discharge from eyes, redness, swelling. Signs depend on area affected.

Treatment: Do not attempt to remove from the eye as this could cause further damage. It is advisable to seek veterinary attention to remove any grass seeds.

BEE STINGS & WASP STINGS

This is not usually serious unless the animal reacts badly which could cause an anaphylactic shock. A sting at the back of the mouth or throat could also be more serious as swelling could obstruct the airway. In both of these cases a veterinary surgeon should be called immediately

Signs: Swelling, pain, increased salivation, breathing difficulties.
If stung around the mouth, the animal will often paw at its face.

Bee stings: Remove sting by scraping, you could use a credit card. DO NOT use tweezers as this could squeeze the poison in further.

A bee sting is acidic, so use 1 dessert spoon of Bicarbonate to a pint of water to neutralise the sting. Apply a cold compress.

Wasp stings: A wasp sting is alkaline so use Vinegar or lemon to neutralise.
Apply a cold compress.

If you do not have these items available, water is better than nothing.