

VETERINARY EMERGENCIES

YOUR PET WILL NEED TO SEE A VET AS AN EMERGENCY IF THEY:



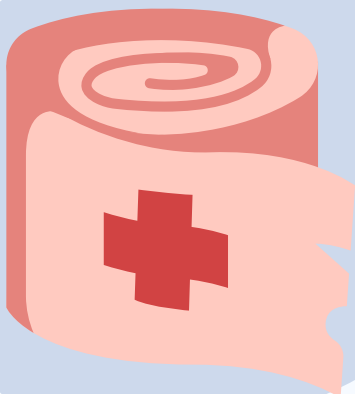
- NOT BREATHING OR DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- UNRESPONSIVE
- COLLAPSED AND CANT GET UP
- ARE CHOKING



- MAY HAVE BROKEN BONES
- ARE BLEEDING SEVERELY
- HAVING DIFCULTY COORDINATING MOVEMENT
- HAVING AN ALLERGIC REACTION



- HAVING A SEIZURE
- UNABLE TO PEE
- HAVE HAD CONTINUOUS VOMITING OR DIARRHOEA FOR >24HRS
- HAVE BEEN ELECTROCUTED



**IF YOU'RE WORRIED
PHONE A VET**

HOW TO ASSESS YOUR ANIMAL



Gums

Check the colour of their gums . Should be **pink and moist**. Press on gums and ensure pink comes back quickly ~2 seconds

Heart rate

At rest heart rate 80-120 beats/minute - feel the heart in the chest or feel pulse inside hind leg.

Breathing

At rest breathing should be 10-40 breaths/min - not shallow, minimal effort into breathing, minimal abdominal movement.

Demeanour

Are they bright and alert and responsive? Or are they depressed, quiet and non-responsive?

Coordination

Are they able to move normally? Do they drag their feet? Can they swallow normally? Gently touch their inner eye and make sure they can blink.

WOUNDS



Cleaning wounds

Always **gently** clean a wound

Dirty wounds (covered in dirt/debris) should be washed thoroughly to remove as much debris as possible

Use either boiled and cooled water, dilute iodine or dilute hibi scrub in a 1 tsp to 1 cup warm water ratio



Caring for wounds

Keep clean and dry; clean wound daily, and whenever wound becomes dirty

STOP PET FROM LICKING WOUND. LICKING = INFECTION = ££

Use a head cone, bandage or other cover to prevent wound being licked, or getting dirty/infected.

Creams to use to keep free of infection: Flamazine, Medical grade manuka honey, sudacream, bepanthen.



When to see vet

WHENEVER YOU ARE CONCERNED

If wound is infected - bite, scratch, fight, dirty wound.

Wound is discharging yellow / pus fluid

Object inside the wound - glass, stick, other object

Bleeding and not stopping after pressure

Large fresh wound >5cm

Deep wound - through skin layers exposing fat or muscle

Large area of missing skin

**AN INFECTED WOUND IS DEEP RED OR PURPL
YELLOW OR BROWN DISCHARGE
SMELLY
HOT TO TOUCH
UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ANIMAL
SWOLLEN UNDERNEATH WOUND**



Bandaging



When

- Actively bleeding wounds
- Deep, fresh or large wounds
- Wounds bleeding heavily to apply pressure and stop bleeding
- Wounds with areas of skin missing
- Burns - pain relief, and keeping clean.

Materials

1. Non-adherent layer applied to the wound - would apply creams to the wound first before this layer.
2. SOFTBAN Absorbent layer - soft bandaging material, cotton wool. Acts to absorb fluids and pad the wound,
3. VET WRAP Elastic conforming layer to apply light pressure to the wound and prevent the bandage slipping off.



How to apply bandage

1. Apply non-adherent layer to wound
2. Firmly wrap soft absorbent layer around wound, making sure to overlap the soft bandage as you wrap around the wound. HAPPY SNAIL! Bandage from the joint above to the joint below the wound.
3. Apply vetwrap over the softban bandage.
Ensure you can fit two fingers in the top of the bandage



KEEP BANDAGE CLEAN AND DRY
CHANGE DAILY
ENSURE THEY CANT EAT THE BANDAGE

Common injuries

A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Nail pull injury	<p>What: A fully or partially split nail, usually a small section hanging off the toe. Usually break either a long nail or dew claw</p> <p>Treatment: Pull loose nail remnant off. Bathe with hibi scrub/iodine and either bandage or keep clean with head cone/bootie. Clean/bandage for 3-5 days.</p> <p>Prevention: Keep nails short, run on concrete 1-2x per week or clip nails at home. Clip dew claws. Clip every 4-6 weeks.</p>
Muscle/soft tissue (lameness)	<p>What: Sprains, pulled tendons, muscles or ligaments. Happen after exercise or from falling/stumbling.</p> <p>Treatment: IN DOGS: Paracetamol. 15-30kg = 1/2 normal paracetamol tablet. 30kg+ = 1 paracetamol tablet. <15kg = phone vet for dose advice.</p> <p>REST ideally restrict walks to 5-10 mins per day for 1-2 weeks.</p> <p>Pain relief for CATS = phone vet for advice</p> <p>Prevention: Limit activity with quick turns. Keep on lead in new environments.</p>
Animal bite SEE VET	<p>What: Often form abscesses and always infected. Large wounds often created</p> <p>Treatment: Small bites - clean well, flush wound with dilute hibi or iodine. Flush/clean daily. Apply cone and keep clean/dry.</p> <p>ABSCESS REQUIRES VET CARE</p> <p>Prevention: Keep cats inside at night. Care when meeting new dogs - use leash.</p>
Grass seed	<p>What: Spring/Summer mostly - running through long grasses. Often get stuck between toes, in eyes, ears, noses, sometimes in lungs. Appear as large swellings sometimes with pus</p> <p>Treatment: Often require vet removal under sedation</p> <p>Prevention: Bathe feet and brush dogs after walks in long grass. Long haired dogs should have hair between toes clipped short in summer</p>
Allergic reaction	<p>What: After contact with allergen - plants, medicines, insect bites. Have difficulty breathing, swollen mouths/throat. Red gums and eyes. Panting. Red, swollen, bumpy skin - bumps all over.</p> <p>Treatment: SEE VET IF BREATHING DIFFICULTY. Can give 1-2 Piriton or Cetirizine tablets for both cats and dogs.</p> <p>Prevention: Keep away for known allergens such as stinging nettle.</p>

Common TOXINS

IF IN DOUBT PHONE VET OR

PHONE VETERINARY POISONS INFORMATION SERVICE (VPIS) £35

0207 305 5055

Chocolate	The darker the chocolate, the higher the risk. Causes seizures, vomiting, tremours, death. Risks depends on cocoa content, weight of dog and amount consumed. GOOGLE "VETS NOW CHOCOLATE CALCULATOR" TO DETERMINE IF DANGEROUS
Grapes/raisins/ sultanas/currants Onion/garlic	How it works is unknown, and toxic dose is unknown. Causes acute kidney failure/bleeding in dogs/cats and signs begin quickly. One raisin might be enough to cause poisoning. Seek vet attention quickly.
Xylitol (Birch sugar)	Artificial sweetner found in chewing gum. IF DOG EATS CHEWING GUM GO STRAIGHT TO VET AND PHONE VET ON THE WAY.
Mouldy Food / Blue Cheese	Can contain dangerous mycotoxins (fungi) which are potentially fatal. Symptoms may start quickly and can include vomiting, tremors, and seizures. Poisoning can be fatal if not treated quickly. SEE VET ASAP
Human medicines	Common human medicines including ibuprophen is toxic to dogs and cats. Paracetamol is FATAL for cats . Eczema cream or creams containing vitamin D can cause kidney failure. Seek vet attention quickly.
Batteries	Acid batteries will cause chemical burns to the mouth and gut. Lithium batteries are particularly dangerous if broken inside the intestines and may require surgery to remove.
Plants	Often ALL ASPECTS OF PLANT ARE POISONOUS. Conkers, Lillies, daffodils, azaleas, tulips. WASH OUT MOUTH, PAWS, EYES, AND BODY IF COVERED IN POISONOUS POLLENS. SEE VET IF ANIMAL INGESTS PLANTS AT HOME

**QUICKER IT IS TREATED THE BETTER THE OUTCOME
THE SAFER YOUR PET WILL BE**

SEIZURE

01

Clear space around your pet

To avoid injury, remove children from the area and clear away furniture. If on high surface place on ground away from surfaces

02

Make it dark

Turn off lights, keep as quiet and calm as possible
Speak quietly around them, stay calm

03

Keep your pet cool

Cover them in wet towels, open windows,
start a fan going near them

04

Time the seizure

Phone and start going to nearest vet if seizure not stopping after 5 minutes. May be useful to film seizure

05

Phone vet

Once seizure has stopped, call vet for advice. Phone vet if >1 seizure in 24 hours

HEAT STROKE

Signs

Excessive panting
Shaking

Bright red gums
Seizure/fits

Confusion
Losing consciousness

Prevention

**Do not keep in hot cars/caravan/
conservatory/porch/
shed**

**Make sure they always have
access to shelter and shade**

Always make sure your pet has access to plenty of fresh water

**Don't walk dogs during the
hottest part of the day –
choose a time when it's
cooler, such as early morning
or later in the evening**

**Avoid strenuous exercise like
running and games (such as fetch)
on hot or humid days**

Treatment

**Place into a room temperature bath, run water hose over them, or put in
running shower AT ROOM TEMP**

Submerge entire body in water except for head
Soak in water and have fan run over body

**Excess heat for a prolonged period of time can lead to internal organ
damage.**

**If losing consciousness, confusion, seizure - seek vet care as soon as
possible**

A guide on how to save a life

CPR:

PHONE VETERINARIAN FOR HELP IN EMERGENCY

MAKE SURE YOU ARE SAFE

It's important to make sure that you are in a safe environment to perform CPR, and that you have someone to help you transport the dog to the vet. CPR is not appropriate if you are somewhere unsafe, likely to get hurt, or are unable to get to a vet practice.

Check they are unconscious

- Call out to **make sure they are unconscious** and continue speaking to them as you approach.
- If they don't respond, gently touch their side but be ready to move away quickly in case they turn to bite – **animals are much more likely to bite if they are injured or scared.**
- If the dog is unconscious, continue to CPR

Is it appropriate?

CPR is definitely worth trying if the collapsed animal is **otherwise healthy**, and their heart has stopped because of a **known** cause such as **electrocution, drowning, or choking**. However, if the animal has an **underlying health problem or severe injuries**, trying to bring them back with CPR is very unlikely to be successful, and may not be the kindest option for them.

AIRWAY

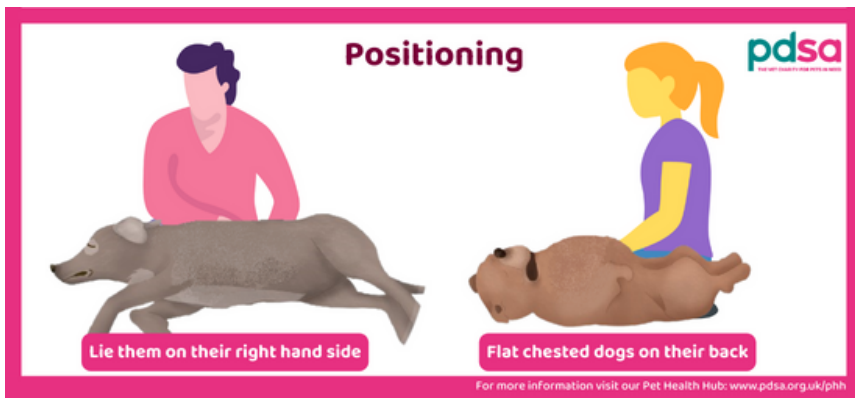
- Pull the animal's tongue forward to make sure it's not blocking their airway, and take a look down it to check there is nothing else blocking it.
IF THEY REACT THEY DO NOT NEED CPR
- If there is something in their throat, remove it with forceps or strong object (pen, spoon, fork)
- If their airway is clear, check their breathing.

BREATHING

- Is the dog breathing? Look and listen. Can you see their chest rising and falling? Can you feel breath coming from their nostrils?
IF THE ANIMAL IS BREATHING THEY DO NOT NEED CPR.
- If they're not breathing, check for a heartbeat.

CIRCULATION

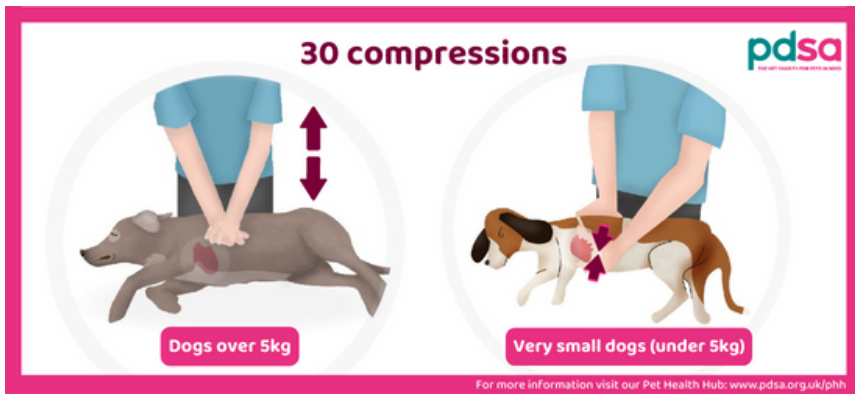
- Place your hand or ear on the left side of the animal's chest to check for a heartbeat – pull their front leg forward and listen/feel around where the elbow met the chest.
- If you can't feel or hear a heartbeat, **begin CPR**, and **ask someone to call the nearest vet to let them know you're coming.**



**Lay on right side If flat chested.
If barrel chested, lay on back**



Place hands same side of chest in medium/large dogs. Small dogs/cats, one hand under and one hand over. Place hands over front of chest



Compress chest down 1/3 with straight arms. Allow chest to expand before compressing again. Compress 2x per second



Every 30 compressions give TWO breaths Hold hand around mouth and blow air forcefully into nose.

CHECK FOR A HEART BEAT EVERY 2 MINUTES

6



Heartbeat → Go to the vets immediately - call them to let them know you're coming.



No heartbeat → Continue CPR and start travelling to a vet - call them to let them know you're coming.

FIRST AID KIT CHECKLIST

Creams and wound antibacterial wash:

- **Hibi Scrub (Chlorhexidine), iodine (betadine)**
- **ReniSan spray (or other antiseptic spray)**
- **Flamazine cream**
- **Bepanthen, or Sudacrem**
- **Cotton wool/sterile swabs**
- **Cone of shame - rigid or inflatable**
- **Foot sock/dog boot**

Bandaging material

- **Gloves**
- **Bandage scissors**
- **Non-adherent bandage**
- **Soft bandage**
- **Vet Wrap, or self-adherent bandage**
- **Micropore tape**

Other

- **Paracetamol (FOR DOGS)**
- **Antihistamine (Piriton/Certerazine)**
- **Tick remover**
- **Packets of saline liquid**
- **Tweezers**
- **Thick old towel**



WAVEVETS



Emergency Links

Chocolate Calculator	Google “Vets Now Chocolate Calculator” www.vets-now.com/app/chocolate-calculator
VPIS - Veterinary Poisons line	www.vpisglobal.com Phone 0207 305 5055
PDSA Bandaging videos	Youtube: How To Apply A Temporary First Aid Bandage To Your Pet: PDSA Petwise Pet Health Hub
PDSA First Aid	Search: PDSA First Aid www.pdsa.org.uk/pet-help-and-advice/looking-after-your-pet/all-pets/first-aid-for-pets
CPR instruction	“CPR dog” youtube https://youtu.be/KqClwoUrgZA