

Making a First Aid Kit for Your Dog

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Since you never know when an accident will happen, keeping a pet emergency kit at your home is a good idea. A smaller kit could be used in the car. You can put a first aid kit together yourself and buy the items separately, or buy one ready-made. If you make one yourself, use a small plastic tub with a tight fitting lid to store the following items:

Important Phone Numbers

- Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic
- Emergency clinic phone number and directions
- Poison control center phone numbers

Equipment and Supplies

- Muzzle, or roll of gauze for making a muzzle
- Magnifying glass
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers and metal nail file
- Styptic powder or sticks, Kwik Stop, or cornstarch
- Penlight
- Nylon slip leash
- Eye dropper or oral syringe
- Cotton swabs
- Cotton balls
- Clean towels - cloth and paper
- Rectal thermometer
- Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)
- Disposable gloves
- Syringes of various sizes
- Needle-nose pliers or hemostats
- Grease-cutting dish soap
- Bitter Apple or other product to discourage licking
- Pet carrier

Bandaging Materials

- Square gauze of various sizes - some sterile
- Non-stick pads
- First aid tape - both paper (easily comes off of skin) and adhesive types
- Bandage rolls - gauze and Vetwrap
- Band-Aids (for humans)

Nutritional Support

- Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte
- Nutritional supplement such as Nutri-Cal, Vitacal, or Nutristat
- High sugar source: Karo syrup

Medicines*

- Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan
- Triple antibiotic ointment for skin
- Antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for eyes, e.g., Terramycin
- Eye wash solution
- Sterile saline
- Antidiarrheal medicine such as Pet Pectate
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for allergic reactions (obtain dose from your veterinarian)
- Cortisone spray or cream, such as Itch Stop
- Ear cleaning solution
- Hydrogen peroxide (used to make

- Towel or blanket to use as a stretcher, another to keep your dog warm during transport (some pharmacies and camping outlets carry a thermal blanket)
- Cold packs and heat packs (wrap in towel before using)
- Stethoscope

a dog vomit - only use as directed by a veterinarian)

- Activated charcoal to absorb ingested poisons (consult your veterinarian before using)

*Watch the expiration dates on any medication, and replace as needed.