

# How to Make a First Aid Kit for Your Bird

*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. 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:

<p><b>Important Phone Numbers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic</li><li>• Emergency clinic phone number and directions</li><li>• Poison control center phone numbers</li></ul> <p><b>Equipment and Supplies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Magnifying glass</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Tweezers</li><li>• Nail clippers and metal nail file</li><li>• Cornstarch (to help control bleeding from a nail)</li><li>• Penlight</li><li>• Scalpel blades and handles</li><li>• Turkey baster</li><li>• Eye dropper</li><li>• Syringes of various sizes</li><li>• Feeding tubes of various sizes (if you are trained in how to use them)</li><li>• Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)</li><li>• Cotton swabs</li><li>• Clean cloths and/or paper toweling</li><li>• Disposable gloves</li><li>• Stethoscope</li><li>• Gram scale</li><li>• Needle-nose pliers or hemostats</li><li>• Wire cutters</li><li>• Net</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home thermometer to measure temperature of bird's environment</li><li>• Heat pack or hot water bottle (to keep the bird warm during transport; wrap the pack in a towel - do not apply directly to your bird, or burns may result)</li></ul> <p><b>Bandaging Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Square gauze of various sizes - some sterile</li><li>• Non-stick pads</li><li>• First aid tape - both paper (easily comes off of skin and feathers, or use masking tape) and adhesive types</li><li>• Bandage rolls - gauze and Vetwrap</li><li>• Wooden sticks of various sizes for splints - tongue depressors, Popsicle sticks, toothpicks</li><li>• Stockinette</li><li>• Gel foam - stops bleeding from wounds (ask your avian veterinarian)</li><li>• Band-Aids (for humans)</li></ul> <p><b>Nutritional Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte</li></ul> <p><b>Medicines*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan</li><li>• Triple antibiotic ointment for skin</li></ul>
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- Towels for restraint and/or to cover cage
- Pet carrier
- Heating pad or heat lamp to use at home

- Antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for eyes, e.g., Terramycin
- Eye wash solution
- Sterile saline

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