

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>Important Phone Numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic• Emergency clinic phone number and directions• Poison control center phone numbers <p>Equipment and Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magnifying glass• Scissors• Tweezers• Nail clippers and metal nail file• Cornstarch (to help control bleeding from a nail)• Penlight• Scalpel blades and handles• Turkey baster• Eye dropper• Syringes of various sizes• Feeding tubes of various sizes (if you are trained in how to use them)• Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)• Cotton swabs• Clean cloths and/or paper toweling• Disposable gloves• Stethoscope• Gram scale• Needle-nose pliers or hemostats• Wire cutters• Net	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home thermometer to measure temperature of bird's environment• 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) <p>Bandaging Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Square gauze of various sizes - some sterile• Non-stick pads• First aid tape - both paper (easily comes off of skin and feathers, or use masking tape) and adhesive types• Bandage rolls - gauze and Vetwrap• Wooden sticks of various sizes for splints - tongue depressors, Popsicle sticks, toothpicks• Stockinette• Gel foam - stops bleeding from wounds (ask your avian veterinarian)• Band-Aids (for humans) <p>Nutritional Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte <p>Medicines*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan• Triple antibiotic ointment for skin
--	---

- 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.