How to Make a First Aid Kit for Your Reptile or Amphibian

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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:

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

- Magnifying glass
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Rectal thermometer
- Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)
- Nail clippers and metal nail file
- Penlight
- Scalpel blades and handles
- Turkey baster
- Tub large enough to soak the reptile in water
- Eye dropper
- Syringes of various sizes
- Cotton swabs
- Clean towels and/or paper toweling
- Disposable gloves
- Gram scale (for small herps)
- Stethoscope
- Wire cutters (if enclosure is not acrylic or glass)
- Heat pack or hot water bottle (to keep the herp warm during

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
- Wooden sticks of various sizes for splints - tongue depressors, Popsicle sticks, toothpicks
- Stockinette
- Gel foam - stops bleeding from wounds (ask your herp veterinarian)
- Band-Aids (for humans)

Nutritional support

- For carnivores: one or more of the following: meat baby food, canned cat food, Hill's a/d
- For herbivores: fruit and vegetable baby food
- Nutritional supplement such as Nutri-Cal, Vitacal, or Nutristat
- Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte

Medicines*

- Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan
- Triple antibiotic ointment for skin
- Antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for eyes, e.g., Terramycin

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transport; wrap the pack in a towel - do not apply directly to your herp, or burns may result) • Pet carrier, cloth bag, or other items needed for transport	• Eye wash solution • Sterile saline to irrigate (wash out) a wound *Watch the expiration dates on any medication, and replace as needed.

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