Making a First Aid Kit for Your Ferret

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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:

Phone Numbers and Records

- Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic
- Emergency clinic phone number and directions
- Poison control center phone numbers
- Vaccination and health records and a list of medications your ferret is receiving - take these with you on every veterinary visit

Equipment and Supplies

- Muzzle
- Magnifying glass
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers and metal nail file
- Styptic powder or sticks, Kwik Stop, or cornstarch
- Penlight
- Eye dropper or oral syringe
- Feeding tubes of various sizes if you are trained in how to use them
- 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

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

- Highly palatable food such as Hill's a/d, Oxbow Carnivore Care or Eukanuba MaxCal (Feline)
- Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte
- Nutritional supplement such as Nutri-Cal, Vitacal, or Nutristat
- High sugar source: Karo syrup
- Probiotics as advised by your veterinarian; often prescribed for ferrets receiving antibiotics

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
- Ferret or cat laxative in paste form

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• Grease-cutting dish soap • Bitter Apple or other product to discourage licking • Pet carrier • Towel or blanket to keep your ferret warm during transport (some pharmacies and camping outlets carry a thermal blanket) • Cold packs and heat packs (wrap in towel before using) • Stethoscope	(e.g.; Doctor's Foster & Smith Hairball Remedy, Laxatone) • Pediatric 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 a ferret 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.

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