

## Dog First Aid Tips

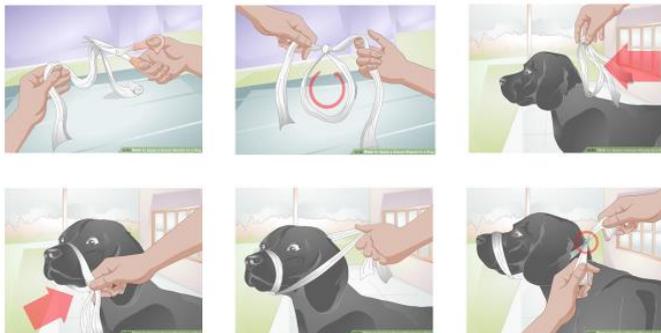


### **Danger and Response**

- Approach an injured dog with caution, keep them warm and dry and try and move them as little as possible.
- Always muzzle a conscious, injured dog.
- Look out for other dangers, put human safety first, call for help and secure the dog and other pets around you as soon as possible.

### **Quick Release Muzzle**

#### Applying An Emergency Muzzle



## **ABCs**

### A)irway

- Clear the airways
- Lay the dog on their side
- Tilt the head back
- Pull tongue forward
- If the dog is unconscious, clear any obstruction by sweeping the mouth

### B)reathing

- Look for chest rises

### C)irculation

- If the dog isn't breathing, its circulation is going to be compromised

## **CPR**



-Done your ABC checks? No breathing? On to CPR- cardio pulmonary respiration - want to keep dog alive and circulation flowing until you manage to get to a vet.

-Lay the dog on a flat surface with their right side against the surface. (You will need to stand towards the dog's back.)

-Form seal around dog's closed mouth with your hands and breath into the nostrils until the dog's lungs inflate.

-Put one of your palms on the dog's rib cage, near the heart region, and put your other palm on top of it.

-Without bending both the elbows, press the rib cage in a downward motion.

-Compress the chest for one-quarter to one-third the width of the chest for a count of one and then let go for a count of one.

-30 compressions, 2 breaths, don't stop (to the rhythm of staying alive)

- If the dog does not show any signs of improvement after 10 minutes of CPR, you can stop as it has not proven successful.
- For smaller dogs (<10kg and puppies): Cup your palms and hold the dog with one palm on either side above the heart region. (You can also place your thumb on one side of his chest and keep the fingers on the other side.)

## **Choking/Drowning**



- Do not endanger yourself if the dog is drowning. Clear the airway. Perform CPR if required.
- If the dog is choking, try to establish whether this is continual choking due to a foreign object in the mouth/throat (i.e, a stick or toy). Lift the dog upside down to expel water and then perform coupage. If the choking continues, perform abdominal thrusts.

## **Cuts/Bleeding**

- Minor cuts and grazes: bathe the wound with saline solution and then apply a light, protective bandage.
- Deep cuts/active bleeding: apply direct pressure to the area to stop the bleeding. Try and raise the affected area above the heart.

## **Road Traffic Collision**

- Call for help
- Muzzle if conscious
- Move off the road gently and safely. Keep dog warm and dry
- Check for consciousness
- Check ABC's
- CPR if required
- Stabilise immediate bleeding and transport to the vet

## **Suspected Spinal Injuries/Fractures**



- Move the dog as carefully as possible, keep the spine and head or affected limb as straight as possible.
- Sudden lameness, extreme pain +/- inability to use or feel the legs will be seen and the limb may look abnormal.
- The dog will be in extreme pain and possible disorientated.
- Try and lie the pet in recumbency on a stable board.
- Do not attempt to reposition the limb.

### **Bite Wounds**

- Bathe the wound in saline solution and keep it clean and dry (stop the dog licking the wound).
- Remember tip of the iceberg- ensure the vet sees the wound asap as the risk of infection is high.

### **Snake Bites**

- The only poisonous snake native to the UK is the adder and is most commonly found in the spring/summer months in heathland and forest areas.
- Swelling and discomfort occurs rapidly around the area of the bite and the toxin can cause shock.
- If you suspect an adder bite, the dog must be seen by a vet asap.

### **Stings**

- Pull out the sting if possible and bathe with saline solution.
- Consult the vet if the dog appears irritated, in pain or swellings develop- particularly around the lips, tongue, eyes and mouth area.
- Be vigilant for signs of breathing difficulties, lethargy and excessive panting- these are medical emergencies and could indicate anaphylactic shock.

### **Heat Stroke**

- Apply copious amounts of cool water gently all over the dog and (if available) position the dog near a fan to aid cooling.
- Transport the dog to the vet with car windows open +/- put the air conditioning on.
- Do not immerse the dog in icy water or place soaking towels over the body.

### **Seizures**

- Caused by multiple reasons- ensure your safety and dog's safety.
- Pull dog away from walls/furniture. Wrap in blanket. Switch off lights/visual stimuli.
- When seizure stopped, contact Vet for further instructions. If seizure doesn't stop within 5 minutes or if dog comes out of a seizure and goes straight into another one, transport ASAP to vet.



## **Poisoning**

- Always consult a veterinarian when you suspect a potential poisoning has occurred.
- If possible, give them the packaging/full details of the poisoning and amount/time the toxin was ingested.

## **Eye Injuries**

- If the eye is bulging or has come out of its socket, keep the eye lubricated with saline solution.
- If there is a foreign object visible in the eye try and prevent the dog from rubbing it and arrange an emergency appointment with the vet.
- If there is an irritant in the eye, bathe the eye with warm water (do not rub the eye surface).
- If a product has come into contact with the eye, note the name of the product and seek veterinary advice ASAP.

## **PET FIRST AID TRAINING COMING SOON**

