

DOGS TRUST HOPE PROJECT



Basic First Aid

Please note: The following information is only intended as a guide. You should always contact your vet for advice if you are worried about your dog's health. Do not give your dog any medication intended for humans.

Bleeding

If your dog is bleeding, you should apply pressure to the wound using your thumb or hand (or a cotton wool pad or clean cloth if available). If you have a bandage, place a dressing on the wound and wrap the bandage over it. Do not use a plaster. Contact your vet as soon as possible. If there is something stuck in the wound do not attempt to remove it as it may be preventing the bleeding from getting worse.

Broken Bones

If you think your dog may have broken a bone, take him to the vet straight away as he may need an x-ray. Do not touch the broken bone as this may be very painful and do not try to apply a splint yourself.

Burns

If your dog has received a burn or a scald, run the affected area under cold water for at least 5 minutes and then contact your vet for advice. Do not apply anything to the burn other than water unless advised to do so by your vet.

Fights

If your dog is involved in a fight, check him for wounds. Puncture wounds to the head or body can be very serious. You should take your dog to a vet straight away. Your dog may need antibiotics to prevent the wounds from getting infected even if they appear very small.

Heat Stroke

On a hot day your dog could be at risk of heatstroke. If you notice that your dog is panting heavily or seems distressed, take him somewhere cool. Wet his coat with cool water, cover him in cold, wet towels and contact your vet. Only offer your dog small amounts of water to drink. Remember to always walk your dog during the cooler parts of the day to prevent heat stroke.

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Poisoning

If your dog has eaten or swallowed something poisonous, try to identify what it is and save any packaging. Call your vet immediately for advice. Do not make your dog vomit unless a vet has advised you to.

Road Accidents

Always keep your dog on a lead near traffic to prevent your dog from being hit by a vehicle. If your dog is hit or struck by a car, approach him slowly and gently and put a lead on him as soon as possible in case he jumps up and runs away. Be aware that he may be in pain and be careful of how and where you touch him.

If your dog can walk, take him straight to the vet for a check-up, even if he appears to have no injuries. If your dog cannot walk, you may be able to carry him but be careful how you pick him up. If you cannot move him, contact your vet for advice straight away.

Stings

Bathe the area around the sting with water (and bicarbonate of soda if available). Apply ice to reduce the swelling. If your dog has been stung in the mouth or throat, you should contact your vet for advice.

Swollen Tummy

If your dog's tummy suddenly becomes swollen, this can be a sign of a serious condition where the dog's stomach twists. This is particularly common in larger breeds of dogs such as mastiffs and labradors. You should contact your vet immediately.

It's important to always have the contact details of your vet to hand in case of an emergency. Make sure their telephone number is saved in your mobile phone and make a note of their details below.

Name & address of your veterinary practice:

Contact Number for your Veterinary Practice: _____