



EMERGENCY PET CARE GUIDE



None of us like to consider that disaster could strike our lives, but proper planning and fast responses can make a huge difference in the outcome of an emergency.

Whether it be an accident or injury to your pet, a personal emergency that sends you to the hospital or a natural disaster such as a storm, fire, flood or earthquake, it's important to have a plan in place for both you and your pet.

LAY THE GROUNDWORK

Preparation is the name of the game! Take these important precautions to make sure you and your pet are ready for any situation.



Keep identification current. Be sure your pet is wearing a collar and has an ID tag that's up to date.



Microchip your pet for added security. A microchip can increase your chances of being reunited with your pet if you are separated. Note your pet's chip number somewhere safe or use the myVCA app to ensure you always have it on hand.



Create a go bag with all the supplies your pet would need if you and your pet must leave your home quickly or if a temporary caregiver must take charge of your pet's care. Don't forget to include this brochure with all information completed.



Assign a temporary caregiver who will take charge of your pet's care if you are unable to. Be sure they have spare keys to your home and know where to find your go bag.



ASSEMBLE A FIRST AID KIT IN THE CASE OF INJURY TO YOUR PET

The kit should include the following items. Check off each one as you include it so that your temporary caregiver knows what is there, should they need to use it.

- Phone numbers for your veterinary hospital, the nearest animal emergency hospital, Pet Poison Helpline and your local animal control
- Clean towels
- Saline solution for cleaning out wounds
- Turkey baster or large syringe
- Gauze roll, nonstick bandages and nonstick tape
- Cotton balls or swabs
- Sterile water-based lubricating jelly
- 3% hydrogen peroxide (only use this if directed by your veterinarian)
- Digital thermometer
- Small flashlight
- Disposable gloves
- Muzzle
- E-collar
- This brochure

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR GO BAG:



Leashes, harnesses and/or carrier for safe transportation



Two weeks of food, bowls, a can opener (if necessary) and feeding instructions



Two weeks of medications with up-to-date instructions



Your veterinarian's information, a copy of your pet's medical records in a waterproof container and this brochure with all information completed



Bags to collect waste



Bedding and comfort items such as toys

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

Be sure to include your pet when you practice for emergency scenarios, and take steps to be ready for situations where you can't get home to your pet.

FIRST RESPONSE

In the event of a pet emergency, it is essential to know how to best help your pet, especially if you are far away from assistance, like camping in the woods. But remember, these lifesaving measures are temporary and you should follow them up with veterinary care as soon as you can.

Safety First!

Even the most loving pets may bite or scratch when they are scared or in pain. Always proceed with caution and use a towel or muzzle for restraint if you need to.

DOs & DON'Ts

POISONING

- ✓ Call your veterinary hospital or the Pet Poison Helpline immediately.
- ✓ Take a picture of what your pet got into.
- ✗ Only induce vomiting if directed by your veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline.
- ✓ Bring all packaging and labels with you to the hospital.

WOUND

- ✓ Wear gloves.
- ✓ Apply pressure to the bleeding wound with clean towels or gauze. If bleeding is severe, continue applying pressure all the way to the hospital.
- ✗ Resist the urge to let up applying pressure to check the rate of bleeding. Keep applying pressure for at least 3 minutes before checking progress.
- ✓ If the bleeding stops, flush with saline to clean the area and then cover with nonstick bandages and gauze.
- ✗ Be careful not to wrap bandages too tight.
- ✗ Don't let your pet lick the wounds.

BROKEN LEG

- ✓ Keep your pet confined to prevent further damage to the leg.
- ✗ Only apply a splint if you have experience doing so.

BURNS

- ✓ Flush with cool water.
- ✗ Avoid using cold water.

SNAKEBITE

- ✓ If safely possible, try to take a picture of the snake.
- ✗ Do not apply a tourniquet to the region of the snakebite.
- ✗ Do not try to suck out the venom.
- ✓ Bring your pet to a veterinary hospital immediately.

HEATSTROKE

- ✓ Keep your pet cool with shade, air conditioning, fans and cool compresses (towels soaked in cool water).
- ✓ Head to the hospital immediately.
- ✗ Never immerse your pet in cold water.

SEIZURE

- ✓ Make sure your pet is away from anything that could injure them.
- ✗ Keep your hands away from your pet's mouth.
- ✗ Do not attempt to restrain your pet.
- ✓ Videotape the entire event.



The American Red Cross offers online pet first aid training, as well as a free pet first aid app: www.redcross.org/take-a-class/first-aid/cat-dog-first-aid

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

MY NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

MY PET'S NAME: _____ BREED: _____

YEAR OF BIRTH: _____ MALE FEMALE

NEUTERED/SPAYED: YES NO MICROCHIP NO.: _____

LICENSE NO.: _____ CITY OF LICENSE: _____

VETERINARIAN NAME: _____

HOSPITAL NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DIRECTIONS: _____

NEAREST VCA ANIMAL
EMERGENCY HOSPITAL: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DIRECTIONS: _____

PET POISON HELPLINE PHONE: _____ LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL PHONE: _____

NON-EMERGENCY
POLICE PHONE: _____ NON-EMERGENCY
FIRE DEPARTMENT PHONE: _____



Whether you want to check your pet's records or access unlimited live chat 24/7 and expert advice for a monthly fee, myVCA app makes it easier for you to manage your pet's health care.

Go to myvca.app to install the app



AT VCA ANIMAL HOSPITALS, WE CARE