

**From:** lissa [lissa@lissa.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2005 10:48 PM  
**To:** ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com  
**Subject:** [ExtMAGDRL] DOE Topic #15: Canine First Aid

Hi All,

Sorry for the hiatus in Dog Owner Education topics, but I figure I earned a reprieve because of Maryland's Dog Owner Education Brunch. LoL! Today's post is on Canine First Aid procedures is widely posted on the internet, but I think it's worth saving in case of emergency. Sharing it with all as DOE Topic #15.

**Emergency Procedures:**

1. Immediately consult your Vet for advice and let him know you are on your way for treatment.
  - Dogs do not understand pain and may try to bite you. Use a muzzle to protect yourself and your dog.
  - Apply pressure pads to wounds to stop or control bleeding.
2. Injuries may cause pets to go into shock.
  - Keep warm with a blanket. If pet is unconscious, place head lower than body during transportation.
  - Avoid unnecessary movement during treatment.
  - Normal Temperature Range for Dogs: 100 - 103 degrees Fahrenheit
3. Transport pet on a hard flat object such as a board to minimize movement of injured body parts.

**Heimlich Maneuver**

Place pet on side, press quickly down on chest, release immediately. Direct force of hands slightly forward. Repeat several times. Open mouth and remove object. Apply artificial respiration if needed.

**Artificial Respiration**

Mouth, nose and throat airways should be cleared. Clamp your hands around pet's face and blow into nose airway until chest expands. Remove your mouth until chest deflates. Repeat procedure every 5 seconds until pet breathes on his own.

**TREATMENTS FOR SPECIFIC SYMPTOMS:**

**Allergic Reactions Symptoms**

Minor: Itching and swelling of eyes, ears, face. Skin lesions. Animal paws at affected area. Acute: Caused by food, sting or vaccine.

**Treatment for Allergic Reactions**

Minor: Wash affected area with a mild soap. If poisoning suspected, give milk of magnesia and enema. Use child's glycerin suppository. Acute: Rush to vet. Needs shot of Adrenaline.

**Choking Symptoms**

Gagging, drooling, making choking sounds. Difficult to breathe and swallow. Paws at mouth. Possibly unconscious.

**Treatment for Choking**

Examine nasal and throat passages for foreign object. Remove if possible. If unable to dislodge, apply HEIMLICH MANEUVER. Consult your Vet.

**Heat Stroke Symptoms**

Slobbering, panting, rapid heart beat, high temperature. Vomiting. Possible coma.

**Treatment for Heat Stroke**

Possibly life threatening. Call Vet. Lower temperature by moving out of sun and bathe in cold water. Apply ice to chest. Massage limbs gently. If conscious, feed small amounts of cool water. Rush to Vet

**Respiratory Problems Symptoms**

Slow or stopped breathing. Pupils dilated. Discolored lips and tongue. Gasps. Possibly unconscious.

**Treatment for Respiratory Problems**

Remove pet's collar. If fluid in the throat, hold upside down. If pet chokes, begin Heimlich Maneuver. If breathing stops, begin artificial respiration. Rush to Vet

### **Cardiac Arrest Symptoms**

Unconsciousness, from stupor to unresponsiveness Dilation of pupils or unequal size. Weak pulse. Varied respiratory rate. Animal will not feel pain if feet pinched hard.

### **Treatment for Cardiac Arrest**

Treat as for shock. Do not give anything by mouth. Call and transport to Vet immediately. THIS IS CRITICAL TO SAVE THE PET.

### **Bleeding Symptoms**

Small cut or open wound. Minor pain. OR deep laceration or puncture. Arterial wound. More painful.

### **Treatment for Bleeding**

Gently and cautiously muzzle dogs. Wrap cats in blanket with head exposed. Clean wound with hydrogen peroxide or antiseptic cream. Apply pressure pad. If bleeding continues, apply more pressure pads and elevate wound. Rush to Vet.

### **Fractures Symptoms**

Limping, swollen joints, protruding bones. Severe pain. Possible shock.

### **Treatment for Fracture**

Gently and cautiously muzzle dogs. Wrap cats in blanket with head exposed. Treat for possible shock. Cover wound with gauze. Do not move fractured body part or attempt to treat injury. Rush to Vet

### **Ear Injuries Symptoms**

Bleeding and swelling from fights, lacerations or scratching. Rubbing ear on floor or ground. Head shaking.

### **Treatment for Ear Injuries**

Apply pressure to wound with sterile pads. Bandage by laying ear over top of head and cover both sides with gauze pads and bandage in place. If severe, consult Vet.

### **Internal Injuries Symptoms**

Difficult to breathe. Sensitive to touch in wound area or abdomen. Signs of blood in eyes, mouth or urine. Possibly in shock.

### **Treatment for Internal Injuries**

Cover and treat for shock. Rush to Vet carefully in flat secure position. Apply cold compress to bruised areas.

### **Eye Injuries Symptoms**

Red eyeballs, excessive tearing. Eyelids closed. Pet paws at eye or rubs face on floor or ground. Pain.

### **Treatment for Eye Injuries**

Do not rub. Flush with water. If foreign object, remove with moistened cotton pad. If bleeding, apply pressure with gauze pads. Hold cold compress over pads. Consult vet.

### **Burn Symptoms**

Singed hair, inflamed skin, blisters, hair pulls out easily. Possibly in shock. Pain.

### **Treatment for Burns**

Flush area with cold water, apply cold wet compresses. Apply antibiotic burn ointment. For minor burns, clean daily with sterile pad and antiseptic soap. More serious burns, treat for shock and Rush to Vet. Do not give pet any type of drugs without advice from Vet.

### **Shock Symptoms**

Paleness in mouth, eyelids and lips. Weak and shallow breathing. Cool body. Semi-conscious. No response.

### **Treatment for Shock**

Cover pet. If unconscious, head should be slightly lower than rest of body. Massage paws and body gently and Rush to Vet.

**Insect Bite Symptoms**

Scratching at affected area. Panting or drooling caused by allergic reaction. Possible vomiting and collapse

**Treatment for Insect Bite**

Use paste of baking soda and water or meat tenderizer dissolved in water and apply to wound. If outdoors, apply mud pack. If swelling occurs or breathing becomes difficult, Rush to Vet for venom antidote.

**Snake Bite Symptoms**

If poisonous, painful swelling and discoloration in area of bite will occur within minutes. Difficult to breathe. Possible convulsion and bleeding from punctures

**Treatment for Snake Bite**

Immediately apply tourniquet between bite and heart. Rush to Vet for venom antidote. Remove venom from wound if possible. Clean affected area well and apply cold compresses

**Poisoning Symptoms**

Staggering blindly, looks aimless, groans in agony, trembling, writhing, near stage of collapse. Possible convulsions, coma or uncoordinated movements. Vomiting, salivation and diarrhea possible.

**Treatment for Poisoning**

To induce vomiting, give 1 to 2 teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide every 5 to 10 minutes until vomiting occurs. NO MORE THAN 4 DOSES. Or, 1 teaspoon of mustard in warm water.

**Vomiting Symptoms**

Symptoms difficult to diagnose. Frothy yellow fluid expelled. Pain, weakness, fever and dehydration. Vomiting can be caused by overeating, motion sickness, ear problems or diet change.

**Treatment for Vomiting**

Do not feed or water for 24 hours. If pet is thirsty, give 2 tbsp. water at regular intervals. You can give Pepto-Bismol to dogs only: 1 tsp. per 20 lbs. body weight every 4 hours. After 24 hours, boiled egg and rice. If symptoms persist, contact the vet.

**Motion Sickness Symptoms**

Restlessness, panting, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling or swallowing.

**Treatment for Motion Sickness**

Stop the car and provide the pet some fresh air. (Veterinarians can offer medication to administer before traveling.)

**Hypothermia Symptoms**

Very cold skin, ruffled fur, shivers, weakness, bloody stool, unconsciousness, gums and tongue pale pink-gray in color.

**Treatment for Hypothermia**

If the condition is severe, immediately take the pet to a veterinarian, making sure to keep him warm on the way. If the condition is not severe, wrap the pet in a towel and apply a hot water bottle to him. Also try using a blow dryer on him. If the pet is conscious, offer him some warm broth.

**Ticks**

Many kinds of ticks are visible on dogs, especially between their toes and behind their ears and front legs. Deer ticks, which transmit Lyme disease, often go undetected.

**Removal of Ticks**

Soak ticks in alcohol or small amounts of tick spray. Wait thirty minutes, and then carefully grasp the ticks with tweezers. Be sure to pull them straight out. After removal, apply antiseptic to the bites, burn or flush the ticks, and thoroughly wash your hands.

**Ear Mites Symptoms**

Shaking or rubbing head on ground, carrying head to one side, scratching ears, dark red wax in ears. (Cats are more likely to get ear mites than dogs.)

**Treatment for Ear Mites**

Call a veterinarian. Pets' ears are fragile, and therefore should be treated only with directions from a professional.

## First Aid Supplies to keep on hand

1. Cod Liver Oil
2. Antiseptic Cream
3. Milk of Magnesia
4. Mustard
5. Muzzle
6. Pliers
7. Blanket
8. Gauze Pads
9. Bandages
10. Surgical Tape
11. Kaopectate
12. Activated or Medical Charcoal
13. Burn Ointment
14. Bicarbonate of Soda
15. Hydrogen Peroxide
16. Pepto-Bismol
17. Child Glycerin Suppositories
18. Rectal Thermometer

As always, thanks for educating yourself to benefit dogs and their owners!

Lissa Scott

AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator

MD/DC Adoption Screens & Events

Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League

<http://www.magdrl.org>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings

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