



Emergency Preparedness for Pets

Knowing what to do, and when to do it.

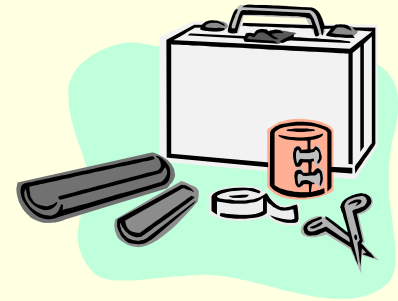
Dr. Kathy Kallay, Four Paws Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

Emergency Preparedness

- How to prepare
- How to recognize emergencies
- What to do

Preparation

- Training
- Supplies
 - First aid kit
 - Emergency phone numbers
 - Evacuation plan and supplies



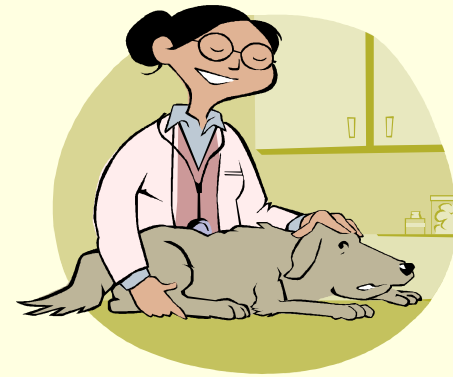
First Aid Kit

- Bandaging materials
 - Cotton rolls, Telfa pads, bandage tape, etc.
- Thermometer and KY Jelly
- Gloves
- Eye wash (saline)
- Antibiotic ointment
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Pet first aid reference book or other materials



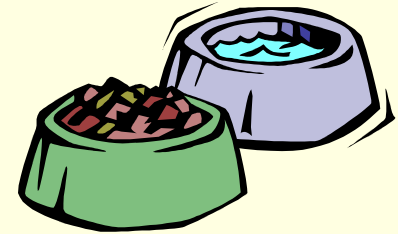
Phone Numbers

- Primary veterinarian
- Emergency clinic
- Veterinarians on travel?
- Back-up pet-sitters
- Transportation
- Poison Control (888) 426-4435



Evacuation Plans

- Transportation options
- Lodging
- Supplies for at least 1 week
 - Food, water, medications
 - Sanitation (litter, newspapers, plastic bags)
- Identification (collar, tags, MICROCHIPS, photo with description)
- Medical records
- Familiar items (toys, beds, chews)
- “Pets Inside” stickers

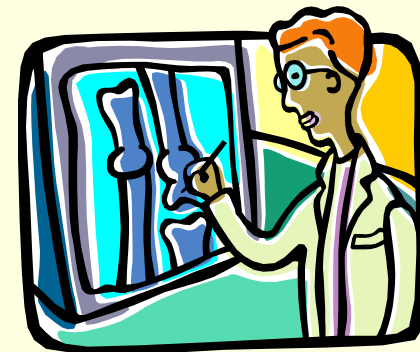


What is an emergency?

- Trauma
- Medical
- Toxins
- Environment

Traumatic Injuries

- Hit by car, any head injury
 - ALWAYS have evaluated by veterinarian IMMEDIATELY
- Falling
- Stepped on
- Lacerations (cuts)
- Broken bones / severe prolonged limping
- Consider need for bandage



Traumatic Injuries - Impalement

- Keep pet calm, seek immediate care.
- Try to minimize movement of foreign object
- If object can easily be cut, shorten to 3-6 inches protruding out of body
- If in the chest, listen for sound of “sucking air”
 - May want to cover area with KY Jelly and plastic wrap
- DO NOT try to remove object

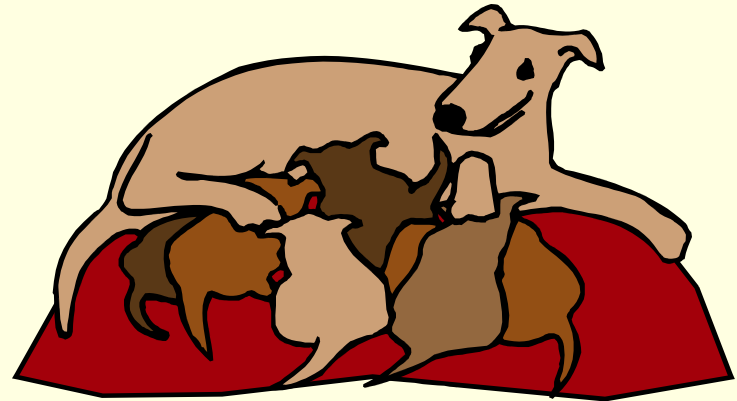
Medical Emergencies

- “Bloat” (Gastric Dilatation Volvulus)
 - Distension and twisting of the stomach
 - Seen more often in large breed, deep-chested dogs
 - Abdomen may look visibly enlarged
 - Retching/vomiting, excessive drooling
 - May seem anxious, restless in general
 - May be in shock
- Life-threatening condition which requires immediate veterinary attention

Medical Emergencies



- Dystocia (difficult birth)
- Contractions for >2 hours without birth of first pup
- > 4 hours between puppies
- No young produced in 30-45minutes with strong contractions



Dystocia

■ Do:

- Remove membranes from over babies face if mother does not
- Use bulb syringe to suction any fluid out of mouth
- Rub vigorously with towel until starts moving and vocalizing
- Tie off umbilical cord with string if mother does not chew/remove herself
- Make sure staying warm and nurses almost right away

Dystocia

- Don't:

- Interfere unless needed
- Pull on any babies that appear to be stuck in birth canal
- Insert fingers into birth canal
- Lift baby by umbilical cord
- Use electric heating pad

Medical Emergency - Paralysis

- If caused by trauma, immobilize on backboard if possible
- Keep pet quiet even if no known trauma
- Dogs with long backs (Daschunds) are prone to IVDD (slipped disc)
- Can be painful, consider need to muzzle.
- Seek veterinary care immediately.

Medical Emergency

- Fainting /Collapsing

- Cardiovascular origin

- Quick recovery – still get checked by veterinarian
 - Prolonged – check vitals to see if needs CPR. Seek medical care immediately.

- Neurologic

- Seizures typically will have some degree of twitching or convulsions

- Hypoglycemia in diabetics

- Rub Karo syrup on gums and seek care immediately. Do NOT try to feed.

Medical Emergency - Eyes



- Eye injuries always need to be seen same day
- Proptosis of globe needs to be seen immediately.
 - Do not try to push back in.
 - Keep moist with saline or KY Jelly (not Vaseline)
- Do not use leftover medications
- Can rinse eye with saline to clear any debris or chemicals

Medical Emergency - Respiratory

- Dyspnea (difficulty breathing)
 - Always needs to be seen immediately
 - Keep pet calm and cool
- Choking
 - Do not confuse with coughing (can inhale)
 - If unconscious – perform finger sweep to clear oral cavity.
 - Perform Heimlich maneuver if obstruction suspected or slap chest wall firmly
 - Perform CPR if needed



Toxins

- Chemicals
- Poisons
- Medications
- Foods
- Plants
- Miscellaneous
- When in doubt contact Poison Control
 - 888-426-4435 or www.aspca.org

Chemicals

- Cleaning products. Follow instructions on label regarding safety.
- Bring container with label to veterinarian.
- Bleach
- Phenols (especially to cats)
- Antifreeze
- Drinking out of toilet bowls and Christmas tree stands with treated water
- Herbicides, insecticides, snail bait
- Ice melting products
- Paint thinners and other solvents



Chemicals and birds

- Birds **extremely** sensitive to inhaled chemicals and smoke
- Aerosol products
- Tobacco products
- Glues
- Paint
- Air fresheners
- Cooking fumes, especially teflon pans



Poisons



- Ant and rat poisons.
- Ingestion of animal that has consumed poison?
- Bring packaging with you to veterinarian.
- Flea/tick products used on wrong species
- Over the counter approved products can be toxic to some animals

Medications

- Prescription drugs (human or animal)
- NSAIDs (aspirin, **tylenol**, **ibuprofen**)
- Cold medicines
- Diet pills
- Vitamins
- Antihistamines
- Illegal drugs



Toxic Foods

- Serious:

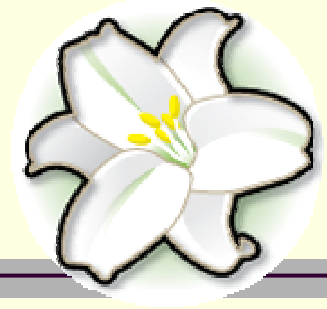
- Chocolate
- Grapes and raisins
- Chewing gum, candy, breath fresheners, baking products containing xylitol
- Bones



- Avoid:

- Onions and garlic
- Macademia nuts
- Tea, coffee, alcohol, milk

Toxic Plants



- Marijuana
- Lilies
- Sago Palm
- Tulip/Narcissus bulbs
- Azalea / Rhododendron
- Oleander
- Castor Bean
- Cyclamen
- Holly and mistletoe
- Kalanchoe
- Yew
- Amaryllis
- Autumn Crocus
- Chrysanthemum
- English Ivy
- Peace Lily
- Daffodils

■ www.aspca.org

Miscellaneous Toxins

- Mothballs
- Tobacco products
- Pennies minted after 1982 (zinc)
- Alkaline batteries
- Christmas tree ornaments and tinsel
- Electrical cords
- Ingestion of any foreign objects
 - especially cats and linear objects like string



Environmental Emergency

- “Heat stroke” (hyperthermia)
- Brachycephalic and overweight predisposed.
- Over 103 abnormal, over 105 life-threatening
- Usually heavy panting, lethargic
- Usually seen in summer from excessive heat
- Can also be caused by prolonged seizures, poisoning, and eclampsia in lactating animals



Heat stroke

- Do:

- Remove from heat source
- Get wet with cool, not cold water
- Direct a fan on pet
- Stop cooling measures once temperature reaches about 102
- Take to veterinarian even if seems recovered

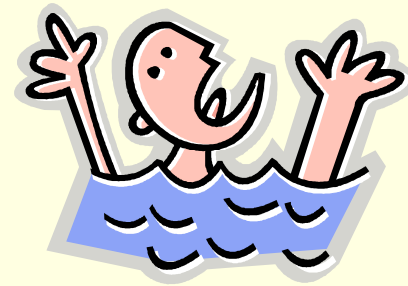


Heat stroke

- Don't:
 - Use ice or cold water – will actually slow cooling of body.
 - Try to get animal to drink
 - Overcool

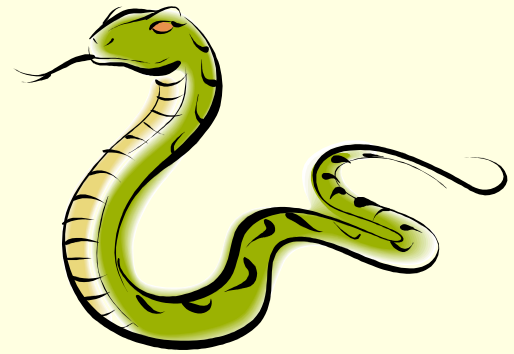
Environmental Emergency-Drowning

- Place pet on side with head lower than body
- Gently push on chest and stomach to expel any water
- Perform CPR if needed
- Panicking animals in the water may injure you
- Seek immediate veterinary care even if pet seems fine afterwards.



Environmental Emergency - Snakebite

- Area will rapidly swell
- May get severe bruising
- Is very painful to pet
- May see punctures in skin
- Do:
 - Keep pet calm and immobile
 - Seek immediate care
 - Keep “struck” area below heart if possible

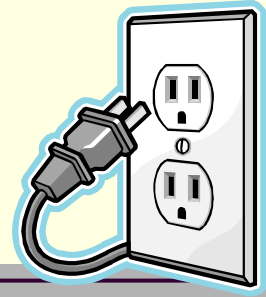


Environmental Emergency - Snakebite

- Don't:

- Cut over the fang marks
- Try to squeeze out the venom
- Apply a tourniquet or ice packs
- Manipulate the area any more than necessary
- Allow pet to be active
- Administer any medication

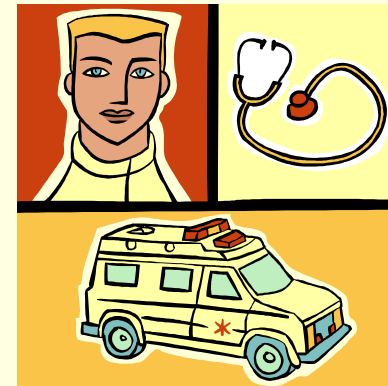
Environmental Emergency - Electrocution



- Shut off electrical source before attempting rescue
- Check for breathing and pulse. Begin CPR if necessary.
- Cover pet with blanket to prevent heat loss.
- Seek immediate veterinary care even if pet seems fine. Serious secondary effects can occur hours later.

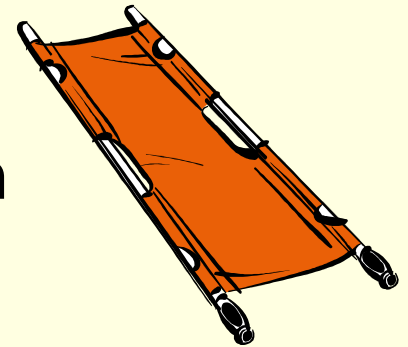
General Principles of First Aid

- Safety
- Triage / Primary Survey
- On site CPR
- Primary care
- Secondary care



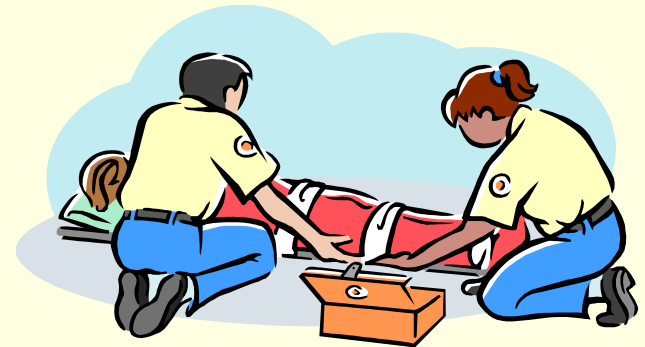
Safety

- Human safety
 - Scene safe (automobiles, electricity, fire)
 - DO NOT GET BIT – impromptu muzzles
 - Cannot use muzzle with breathing difficulty or vomiting
 - Won't work on short-nosed dogs
- Pet safety
 - May need to move to safer location
 - Consider need for immobilization



Triage

- General appearance and demeanor
- Level of consciousness
- Ability to breathe
- Circulatory functions (pulse, mucous membrane color, CRT)
- Appearance of pain
- ABC's
- Usual responses of pet
- Your ability to cope!



CPR

- Make sure pet has actually arrested and is unconscious
- Ensure open airway (A)
 - Head and neck straight, mouth open, tongue pulled forward
 - Remove excessive saliva or vomitus
 - Finger sweep
- Observe for effective breathing (B)
 - Breathing may spontaneously resume with above steps
 - Listen and look for at least 10 seconds

CPR

- Rescue breathing
 - Cover animal's nose with your mouth
 - Hold mouth and lips closed, especially at corners
 - Blow until you see chest expand
 - Exhalation is automatic/passive
 - After first few breaths stop and check for spontaneous breathing
 - Push air out of stomach periodically
 - Breathe for them about 20 times/minute

CPR

- Check for circulation (C)
 - Check for femoral pulse
 - Strong, steady, at least 80bpm
 - Know what is normal for your pet
 - Mucous membranes should be pink
 - CRT about 2 seconds or less
 - Can feel for heartbeat with hand
 - Bottom of chest just behind front legs
 - Heart beat should be regular, about 80-120bpm

CPR

- Chest compressions small dogs & cats
 - Squeeze rib cage using one or both hands around chest. Depress circumferentially.
 - Compress 100-150 times per minute – this is fast!

CPR

- Chest compressions in large dogs
 - Use 1 or 2 hands depending on size of dog
 - Have dog laying on side
 - Place hand over widest part of chest
 - Depress ribs 2 to 4 inches depending on size of dog. When in doubt, be vigorous.
 - Rate 80-120 times per minute.

CPR

- Coordinating breathing and compressions
 - If working alone:
 - Give 2 breaths after 12 compressions
 - If working with someone else:
 - Breath should be given after every second or third compression
 - Try to give breaths at same time as compressions
- Don't forget to stop and check periodically

Summary

- Preparation
 - Supplies
 - Training
 - Practice

THANK-YOU!

Any questions?

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