



Dog First Aid Checklist & Emergency Kit

A standard dog first-aid kit should include the following, but depending on your pet's activity level, lifestyle and behaviour, some items might have to be adjusted :



- Tweezers: To remove insect stingers, ticks or splinters
- Gauze sponges: To clean wounds or put pressure on small bleeding areas
- Tourniquet: To control bleeding from a wound
- Bulb syringe: For suctioning nostrils clean
- Clean kitchen or hand towels: For cool compresses and cleaning larger messes
- Epsom salts: When mixed with warm water, fundamental for managing simple swellings or paw injuries
- Baking soda: When mixed with water into a paste, neutralizes skunk smell and acidic insect venom
- Bandage materials: Includes non-adherent bandage pads, cotton wrap, gauze wrap and self-adherent wrap
- Protective cone: Also called an "Elizabethan collar" or "E-collar" — vital for keeping bandages on and reducing the risk of self-trauma
- Antiseptic: For simple wound cleaning and disinfection
- Hydrogen peroxide: For cleaning blood off an injury to make it easier to see
- Syringes: To accurately measure medicines
- Eyewash: To rinse eyes in case of a chemical burn
- Hot water bottle: To help keep small dogs warm, should they suffer hypothermia; also great for soothing muscles after exertion or injury



- Thermometer: To take your dog's temperature
- Alcohol-free wound spray: To treat simple scrapes, burns and superficial wounds
- An antibiotic or a soothing ointment: Invaluable for treating simple injuries
- Ice pack: Helpful for nosebleeds, among other little injuries

Put all your first-aid items into a large box with a list of important telephone numbers taped to the top. Include contact information for your vet, your nearest emergency animal hospital, your emergency contacts and any other relevant numbers.

Talk to your vet before employing your dog's first-aid kit, and never give your dog medicine without first discussing their condition with a vet. Consider talking to your vet before purchasing some of the above, as you'll want dog-specific items. Some items for humans might not be suitable.

What to Put in a Dog Emergency Kit:

A dog emergency kit should be "ready to grab" in every household Here's what you should include in your dog's emergency kit:

- Your dog first-aid kit
- A month's worth of any medicines your dog takes. Remember to replace any medicine before it expires if you don't use the kit.
- A list of important telephone numbers
- Your dog's microchip information (please do chip your dog, it can save it's life and reunite you with your best friend should it get lost!)
- Vaccination records and other relevant medical information



- At least a few days' worth of food and treats, but a month is a better option in case you get displaced from your home. Check the expiry dates regularly
- A bowl & a bottle of water
- An extra leash and collar
- A crate and a spare blanket

Of course, we all hope we'll never need any of the above, but it's always better to be prepared in case. Also, make sure everything is up to date and do some training using the items...it will save you and your dog a lot of stress when you should need to apply any of it....and training this will help you bond with your dog and can be a lot of fun!



Enjoy life with your best friend