

FURSAFE[®]

EMERGENCY DOG FIRST AID

**AN INVALUABLE GUIDE
FOR ALL DOG LOVERS**



Emergency Dog First Aid Guide

FURSAFE®

PO Box 1722 Cleveland QLD 4163

www.fursafe.com.au

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Author: Joanne Bibby

The information in this book is to provide you with general advice only. The advice is not a substitute for the guidance and advice provided by a licensed veterinary practitioner.

All care has been taken in preparing the information, however, the author accepts no responsibility or liability for any consequences resulting from the use of or reliance upon the information contained herein.

The author recommends that all pet owners undertake training in artificial respiration (AR), cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and wound management, and that they refresh these skills every 3 years.

FURSAFE[®]
EMERGENCY
DOG FIRST AID

JOANNE BIBBY



*"A Dog is
the only thing on earth
that loves you more than
he loves himself."*

JOSH BILLINGS

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INTRODUCTION

AT FURSAFE® WE BELIEVE THAT KNOWING HOW TO ADMINISTER EMERGENCY FIRST AID IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST FOR ALL PET OWNERS.

This guide has been designed with simple instructions to assist you in preserving your dog's life after experiencing a life-threatening injury or illness until professional veterinary care can be sourced.

Whether you are at home, travelling, camping, participating in dog shows, training for sports agility, or you work on the land or in the security services – this guide is for you.

You should read this guide so often that the pages become 'dog eared'! Become familiar with your primary and secondary assessment steps and the taking of vital signs so they become second nature.

Emergency Dog First Aid Guide author and founder of FURSAFE® Joanne Bibby, is a 40-year pet care veteran, specialising in dog, cat and horse first aid, with 20 years in high risk occupational health and safety, emergency preparedness and response and training.

FORMS & TEMPLATES



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

EMERGENCY CONTACT	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
State Emergency Services		
Fire		
Police		
Ambulance		
Electricity Provider		
Water Provider		
Gas Provider		
Family Member 1		
Family Member 2		
Family Member 3		
Family Member 4		
Family Member 5		
Family Member 6		
Next of Kin – Primary		
Next of Kin - Secondary		
Neighbour – Primary		
Neighbour - Secondary		
Vet – Local		
Vet – Secondary		

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

EMERGENCY CONTACT	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
Emergency Vet Services		
Vet – Alternative / Away		
RSPCA		
Local Council Dog Shelter		
Kennel – Primary		
Kennel – Secondary		
Kennel – Alternative / Away		
Pet Sitter		
Pet Day Care		
Other – Local		
Other – Away / Out of Town		
Pet Insurance Provider		



PET DETAILS #1

DETAILS	INFORMATION	COMMENTS
Pet name		
Type / Breed		
Date of Birth	/ / Age	
Sex	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female	
Desexed	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Microchip ID	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Number of microchip:	
Identifying features		
Behavioural issues or concerns		
Does dog bite?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Health issues, conditions and /or allergies		
Medications #1		
Medications #2		
Medications #3		
Medications #4		
Flea/tick treatment		Next treatment due:
Vaccination	C3 (core vax) = parvovirus, distemper, infectious hepatitis	Next treatment due:
	C4 = C3 + parainfluenza virus	Next treatment due:
	C5 = C4 + Bordetella bronchiseptica	Next treatment due:

PET DETAILS #2

DETAILS	INFORMATION	COMMENTS
Pet name		
Type / Breed		
Date of Birth	/ / Age	
Sex	<input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female	
Desexed	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Microchip ID	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Number of microchip:	
Identifying features		
Behavioural issues or concerns		
Does dog bite?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Health issues, conditions and /or allergies		
Medications #1		
Medications #2		
Medications #3		
Medications #4		
Flea/tick treatment		Next treatment due:
Vaccination	C3 (core vax) = parvovirus, distemper, infectious hepatitis	Next treatment due:
	C4 = C3 + parainfluenza virus	Next treatment due:
	C5 = C4 + Bordetella bronchiseptica	Next treatment due:




EMERGENCY DOG FIRST AID KIT

FURSAFE

QTY	ITEM	PURPOSE
1	 Elastic Cotton Crepe Bandage 7.5cm x 4m	Used to secure donut bandages and non-adherent dressings.
1	 Donut Bandage Medium	Used to stabilise penetrating objects e.g. a stick; and Used to stabilise and protect open fractures; and eye proptosis.
1	 Donut Bandage Small	Used to stabilise penetrating objects e.g. a stick; and Used to stabilise and protect open fractures; and eye proptosis.
1	 Diagnostic Penlight	To inspect dog's airway; Checking pupil reflex; and Looking for ticks.
1	 Flexible Digital Thermometer	Taking dog's temperature when concerned with general health; heat stress; or hypothermia.
2	 Lubricant Gel Sachet 3ml	For support when accessing rectal area with digital thermometer.
2	 Non-adherent Dressing 10cm x 7.5cm	Can be used on minor wounds; and Can be used as additional cover of existing wound bandage
3	 Sterile Gauze Swabs 7.5cm x 7.5cm	Used under or over donut bandage when over eye; kept moist; and Can be used to clean minor wounds (do not use on severe bleeding).
1	 Scissors	Used for cutting bandages if too long or open bandage packaging.
1 Set	 Plastic Tick Twister	To remove ticks, small or large, from body of dog.
1	 Flexible Aluminium Foam Splint Small flat 22 x 11cm	Splinting fractures and; Also to assist with immobilising leg after snake bite.
1	 Emergency Whistle	To get someone's attention when you require help.
1	 Instant Ice Pack 80g	For sprains / strains; Help with cooling for heat stress; and cooling ant and spider bite sites.

EMERGENCY DOG FIRST AID KIT

QTY	ITEM	PURPOSE
1	 Cohesive Bandage 5cm x 4.5m	To cover bandaging to inhibit chewing of wound and keeping bandages dry; and Can also be used as a make shift muzzle.
1	 Non-Woven Paper Tape 2.5cm x 5m	To secure dressings / bandages.
2	 Saline Wash 15ml	Use to wash dirt out of eyes.
1	 Premium Snake Bite Bandage with Indicator	To manage snake bite on limb of dog; and Can be used as a compression bandage for arterial bleeding.
1	 Emergency Thermal Blanket	To keep dog warm; Prevention against shock.
1	 Disposable CPR Face Shield	Protection when administering mouth to nose artificial respiration.
1	 Wound Dressing #13 8 x 10cm	Small dressing to control severe bleeding.
1	 Wound Dressing #14 12 x 12cm	Medium dressing to control severe bleeding.
2 Pairs	 Nitrile Powder Free Gloves Large	Hand protection.
1	 Plastic Forceps	Handling sterile dressings; Removing items from dog's throat if choking; and Can be used for removing very small ticks or splinters.
1	 Hand Sanitiser 50ml	Cleaning hands before and after treatment.
2	 Wooden Tongue Depressor	Used to for checking airway; or Used as a splint for extra small dogs.
2	 Soda Crystals	Dose to assist in the discharge of stomach contents for PAPP and 1080 Poisoning. (Warning: Contact Vet before administering to ensure correct dose and suitability for dog's symptoms.)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



PRIMARY ASSESSMENT

Flow Chart

D

Check for **Danger** / Safety.

R

Check **Response**.
If responsive, manage injuries.

S

Send / call for Help.
If no response or need help moving or securing dog.

A

Clear and open **Airway**. Gently tilt head, pull tongue forward, remove any obstructions.

B

Check **Breathing**.
If not breathing normally, commence CPR.

C

CPR provide 2 breaths, mouth to nose, followed by 30 chest compressions at 100 to 120 per minute.

Continue CPR until you hand over to Vet or signs of life return.

Seek Veterinary attention after any life-threatening event.

PRIMARY ASSESSMENT

DRSABC

1. DANGER

Your goal here is to ensure that the area or scene is safe for yourself, bystanders and the injured dog.

Always check for danger; Refer page 21 for hints.

2. RESPONSE

Is the dog conscious? Does your dog respond to you talking to them or your touch?

If your dog responds to you then 1. take vital signs, refer page 27 and to undertake secondary assessment, refer page 31.

Where your dog is unconscious....

3. SEND FOR HELP

This might be calling a family member or friend, maybe even a bystander. Use an emergency whistle to raise their attention and call them over. If you are unsure in the moment what to do, call your Vet.

Immediately following your call for help you want to know if there is any obstruction to your dog's airway....

4. AIRWAY

Open the dog's mouth, pull the tongue forward gently, use your torch to see if there is anything stuck in the throat; if there is use the forceps to remove the foreign object; or scoop out vomit using tongue depressor.

Once clear check the dog's breathing....

5. BREATHING

Is your dog breathing? The three key techniques are Look, Listen, Feel.

5.1 Look for the rise and fall of the dog's chest;

5.2 Listen for air moving in and out of the mouth; and or

5.3 Feel the chest rise and fall

Count the number of breaths to determine if breathing is normal or abnormal. Refer page 29.

If your dog is breathing then undertake secondary assessment. Refer page 31.

If there are no life-threatening wounds or injuries put dog in car. Refer page 35 and

GET TO VET

If Breathing is abnormal monitor during drive to the Vet.

IF YOUR DOG IS NOT BREATHING immediately commence Artificial Respiration. Refer page 23.

After 2 rescue breaths from your mouth into your dog's nose check pulse. Refer page 23.

If there is no pulse ...

.....

6. COMMENCE CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Refer page 25.

Provide 30 compressions at 100–120 beats per minute (at the speed of 'Stayin Alive song'), take pulse; provide 2 more breaths and then 30 more compressions.

Continue cycle until you hand dog over to the Vet or you cannot physically keep going.

If you have a driver continue CPR on the way to the Vet or until Emergency Mobile Vet arrives on the scene.

SCENE ASSESSMENT

Hints

Consider the following hints when assessing danger at the incident scene. **For example:**

Injured dogs can become aggressive. You may need to muzzle your dog. However, note: never muzzle a dog if unconscious, has an injury to mouth / nose, or has breathing difficulties. Assess the dog's temperament when determining safest way to carry on.

Never touch dog directly until released from electricity source!
Electricity can kill!

Beware that chemicals can be dangerous to humans!

Make sure you wipe your dog's nose before administering Artificial Respiration.

During a seizure, a dog could be injured if dog collides with furniture or other objects; where necessary move furniture out of the way do not try to hold the dog.

Lifting an injured dog may cause you a back injury. Make sure you adopt best practice manual handling techniques. Bend knees get into a squat, keep back straight, keep dog close to your body and avoid twisting or leaning.

If your dog has been affected by an allergen, and you yourself has allergies, make sure you have your medication on standby or get help!

Getting into a river or dam to rescue a dog may place your life in danger: the dog may panic and hurt you; you may get caught in a current, or you may have difficulty getting up the bank.

Removing a penetrating object may cause additional pain to the dog or cause additional internal damage and severe bleeding. **NEVER remove a penetrating object.**

Beware that approaching a dog in traffic may place your own life in danger; only when traffic has stopped or been diverted by Emergency Services should you approach and move the dog to safety.

Moving a dog with a suspected spinal injury without assistance and control of head, neck and back may permanently disable the dog or affect the dog's survival.

Beware of falling into snow drifts, falling through frozen lakes or getting lost due to limited visibility. You or your dog may experience hypothermia, frostbite.

WARNING! Snakes can be deadly!! Approaching a dog when a snake is still close by may place your own life in danger; you should approach the dog only when safe to do so. Give your local snake catcher a call!

Do not pull on embedded fishing hooks stuck in a dog's throat or pull on the dog's tiny neck bones located in back of throat.

WARNING! Spiders can be deadly!! Approaching a dog when a spider is still close by may place your own life in danger; you should approach the dog only when safe to do so.

Cane toad venom is toxic to humans! Never place your mouth over a dog's nose / mouth if dog has been exposed to or ingested venom, follow first aid action plan.

What other dangers can you think of?

ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

DEFINITION: Forcing air into a dog's lungs using mouth to snout method when breathing has stopped.

CAUSE: Blockage in throat, allergic reaction, chemical and other toxic substances, respiratory injury or illness.

Action

1. Place on right side.
2. Gently straighten neck, careful not to over extend.
3. Open mouth and check for and remove foreign material or vomit from the mouth. Use the finger sweep method; a tongue depressor; or forceps.
4. Never put your mouth over a dog's nose if poisoning has taken place without first cleaning area thoroughly and use CPR Face Shield.
5. Pull tongue forward to rest between front teeth. You don't need to be forceful; dog's tongues are quite long; you just want to make sure it is not bunched up in the back of the dog's throat.
6. Close dog's mouth without hurting the tongue; cup hands around dog's snout; place your mouth over nose, creating a seal with your lips around dog's nose. Careful not to rest your tongue on their nose.
7. For tiny dogs or puppy's, place your mouth over both the mouth and the nose of dog.
8. Give 2 breaths first, then 12–20 per minute according to dog's size.



9. Be careful not to over-inflate lungs; adjust the strength and volume of your blowing for the size of the dog, as you would a baby, child, adult.
10. Check that air is getting into lungs by noticing rise and fall of chest.
11. Check to see if dog has begun breathing by itself.
12. If you have a driver, continue artificial respiration if required while in transit to vet.

Check every 60 seconds for breathing and heartbeat.



Large dog: Breaths as for a young adult.



Medium dog: Breaths as for a child.



Small dog: Breaths as for a baby (small puffs).

CARDIO PULMONARY RESUSCITATION

DEFINITION: The act of manually compressing a dog's chest to pump the heart and keep blood circulating after heart stops. CPR is used in coordination with artificial respiration.

Action

1. Check pulse at femoral location (place two fingers in the groove between the muscles of inner thigh to feel pulse). Refer page 27.
If a pulse is present, do not do CPR.
2. Lay the dog on the right side on a flat, firm surface.
3. Kneel behind dog and place palms of your hands where your dog's left elbow touches chest when elbow is bent (approximately middle of ribcage).
4. For smaller dogs and puppies, you can use the one-handed technique: Wrap your hand around the sternum directly over the heart and squeeze.
5. For barrel-chested dogs (e.g. bulldogs), lay dog on back.
6. Push the chest down $\frac{1}{4}$ to of its depth at a speed of 100–120 compressions per minute.
7. After every 30 compressions, pull tongue forward so tongue pokes out between front teeth; hold the mouth shut (make sure it's completely closed), cupping hands around snout, and deliver 2 rescue breaths; then return to compressions.
8. Repeat until dog is breathing on its own, is handed over to the vet, or when you are physically unable to continue.



-  **Large dog:** Compress 3.8 cm (1.5 inch)
-  **Medium dog:** Compress 2.5 cm (1 inch)
-  **Small dog:** Compress 1.3 cm (½ inch)

VITAL SIGNS

Vital signs are the measurement of key functions such as Heart; Breathing; Temperature; and Blood flow to help assess the physical health of the dog, especially after experiencing a life-threatening event. These results give clues to a dog's decline or stabilisation.

CAPILLARY REFILL

Capillary refill is the time it takes for fine branching blood vessels to refill after being pressed and then let go.

When you press the gums (mucous membranes) in a dog's mouth, you can tell if the dog has a healthy or an unhealthy blood flow, demonstrating oxygen levels and blood pressure.

MEASURING THE CAPILLARY REFILL

Lift the upper or lower lip of the dog's mouth, just as you would if you were looking at your own gums, and gently press your fingertip on the gum. When the gum is pressed, it should turn white and then return to the usual pink colour within 2 seconds as you release the pressure.

If a dog's capillary refill time is either side of the usual 2 seconds, it can indicate changes in the oxygen levels in the tissues and/or blood pressure, demonstrating a potentially serious illness or injury.

BODY TEMPERATURE

The measurement of a dog's temperature can help detect illness or decline after medical or emergency event. It can also help you monitor whether or not treatment is working. Especially when cooling or warming.

To take the temperature of a dog, insert a lubricated paediatric rectal thermometer into the dog's rectum (bottom). Insert up to 2.5 cm (1 inch) for 1 minute.

Normal temperature of a dog is 38.5–39.2 °C (101.3–102.5 °F)



RESPIRATORY RATE

When a dog breathes normally, the chest will rise and fall, just as your own does. If the abdomen is moving and not the chest, it may indicate a medical emergency.

If you have difficulty telling if the chest is rising, you can sometimes feel or hear the dog breathing by placing your ear near the dog's mouth or you could place your hand on the dog's chest and feel the rise and fall.

Other ways you could detect breathing is to place a wet finger near the nose or hold a small wisp of cotton wool near the nose (watch for movement of cotton wool as the dog breathes out).

Normal respiratory rate of a dog is 10 – 30 breaths per minute.

If you count the number of times the chest rises over 15 seconds and then multiply that number by 4, you will have the breaths per minute.

If your dog is gasping for air or unusually making loud noises when breathing in or out, this is a sign of a medical emergency.

HEARTBEAT

A dog's heart is located on the left side of the chest at the point where the elbow, when bent, touches the chest. You can find the pulse by gently pressing in the groove between the muscles of the inner thigh.

Normal heartbeat / beats per minute (bpm):



Large dog: 60–100 bpm



Medium dog: 60–100 bpm



Small dog: 100–160 bpm



Puppy: 120–160 bpm

If your dog's heart rate is too slow or too high, it may be a sign of a medical emergency.

VITAL SIGN	RATE	CHECKING VITAL SIGN	COUNT/RECORD
Normal heartrate (Medium / Large Dog)	60–100 beats per minute	Place your hand over dog's heart	Count beats in 15 seconds x 4
Normal respiratory rate	10–30 beats per minute	Observe chest / flank motion Feel / look for air	Count breaths in 15 seconds x 4
Normal temperature	38.5–39.2°C (101.3–102.5 °F)	Rectal thermometer (insert 2.5cm / 1 inch for up to 1 minute)	Record in °C or °F



SECONDARY ASSESSMENT HEAD-TO-TAIL

DEFINITION: Assessment of additional injuries or abnormalities.

Action

STEP 1

Take Vital Signs of your dog and record for the Vet. You want to know your dog's temperature, respiration and pulse to see if there are any abnormalities. Refer to page 27.

STEP 2

Start at the nose and continue down the entire body (for example, trunk, limbs, tails, genitals). Look, listen and feel for abnormalities.

STEP 3

Attend to injuries as per guide. Get to vet.
(If possible, document what you find; use 'Vet note' pad).

Look for abnormalities such as, but not limited to:



Severe bleeding – Refer page 42 + 43



Overheating – Refer page 27 + 79



Burns – Refer page 47















Wounds: open, internal, external – Refer page 107



Shock – Refer page 89



Fluid discharge from orifices / openings – Refer pages 95 and 99

-  Bite wounds / puncture wounds – Refer pages 63 and 91 and 93
-  Bone abnormalities – Refer page 73
-  Gum colour; undertake capillary refill test – Refer page 27
-  Injury to eyes – Refer page 69
-  Vomiting; take notice of appearance and consistency – Refer pages 39, 51, 53, 77, 79, 91, 93, 97, 99 and 101
-  Diarrhoea; take notice of appearance and consistency - Refer pages 53, 77, 93, and 99
-  Penetrating objects – Refer page 85
-  Shivering / tremors / convulsions – Refer pages 51, 53, 67, 75, 81, 85, 87, 89 and 101
-  Excessive panting – Refer pages 45, 79 and 97
-  Limp (flaccid) body – Refer page 91, 95, 97 and 99
-  Lumps / hives – Refer page 39 and 73
-  Ticks – Refer page 97

RESTRAINING AN INJURED DOG






Physical Restraint

WARNING: We are talking about a dog who is in pain, anxious, confused, essentially not their usual self. Your dog may lash out and bite you as a reaction to their fear. (Be careful when lifting or holding not to impact wound.)

Action

STEP 1

MUZZLE DO NOT MUZZLE IF

-  A dog is vomiting
-  Has mouth or jaw injuries
-  Is convulsing or having a seizure
-  Has breathing difficulties
-  Is unconscious

It is always a good idea to have a muzzle in your first aid kit and to use it, but don't forget the list above, because there are times when a muzzle is a big NO, NO! Measure the length and circumference of your dog's snout so you purchase the correct size for your dog.

When you buy your muzzle, get your dog to try it out, but just as importantly it will give you time to get use to putting it on. Never tighten up a muzzle too much as it could cause additional stress, not to mention cut off circulation!

A great way to muzzle your dog in an emergency is to use a strip of cohesive bandage and wrap it around the snout allowing it to secure to itself. Make sure it is secure and keeps the dogs mouth closed.

Never leave a muzzle on a dog for too long; once your dog is calm or has a cone in place, it's a good idea for your pet's comfort to remove the muzzle. This will also happen once your vet has examined your dog.

If conditions change and your dog begins vomiting or has breathing difficulties, remove the muzzle immediately!

STEP 2 MANUALLY RESTRAIN

If you have someone to help; the helper could take on the task of restraining the dog.

You want the dog's head and body secured whether it is to muzzle, undertake a secondary assessment or administer first aid.

Place your arm around the dog's chest and up towards the head, supporting the neck and head.

Place your second arm up over the back and up around the belly, wrapping your arm around the dog's body, securing the dog close to your own body. Don't ever squeeze or hold too hard, you just want to be firm and calm. Never place body or arms over injured area of dog.

Don't ever sit on the floor while examining an injured dog, if you squat / crouch you will have the ability to move out of the way quickly if the dog becomes aggressive.

As much as you love your dog, never put your face up to a dog's when injured and avoid direct eye contact, in other words, don't stare!

Talk in soothing tones, keeping your voice soft and low. If you use excited or screeching sounds you will stress your dog.

TRANSPORTING TO VET

Ensure bleeding has been controlled, wounds dressed and fractures stabilised.

Ensure you don't make injuries worse, limit the number of times you move your injured pet.

For example:

1. Move out of danger.
 2. Undertake first aid.
 3. Place in carrier, box, basket or crate, otherwise, carry or cradle in arms, making sure not to hurt dog further; (do not place dog on injured side when putting in the car).
-

Stay calm, talk soothingly to dog; cover dog in blanket.

It may be less traumatic for large dogs to walk to the car, if they are able, and allow them to get comfortable on seat if possible. Where possible use a ramp for large dogs to get into back of car. Otherwise get help to move large dogs.

Where spinal injuries are suspected, slide dog sideways by pulling dog by scruff and lower back fur, onto a makeshift hard-surface stretcher (e.g. short cupboard door, ironing board, wooden board) keeping head and neck on board (don't allow it to hang off the end). Secure dog in place; tie dog to board using strips of material, rolled bandages, towels to ensure stability when moving; to avoid dog slipping, restrict sudden movements or unbalanced lifting. If necessary, use a blanket as a makeshift stretcher.

Make sure the car door is open and seat is prepared before lifting dog.

If possible, whilst someone else drives, sit in the back with the dog, monitoring and soothing during trip to vet.

If you have a driver:

- 🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.

Before even experiencing the risk of needing to rush your dog to the vet on a stretcher, decide what you would use and have a go at putting it in the car; determine where and how it would best fit, if loaded with your dog, and think about how you would tie your dog to it.

Always make sure the board fits in car before tying dog to it. When securing dog onto stretcher make sure you never tie over injured areas.

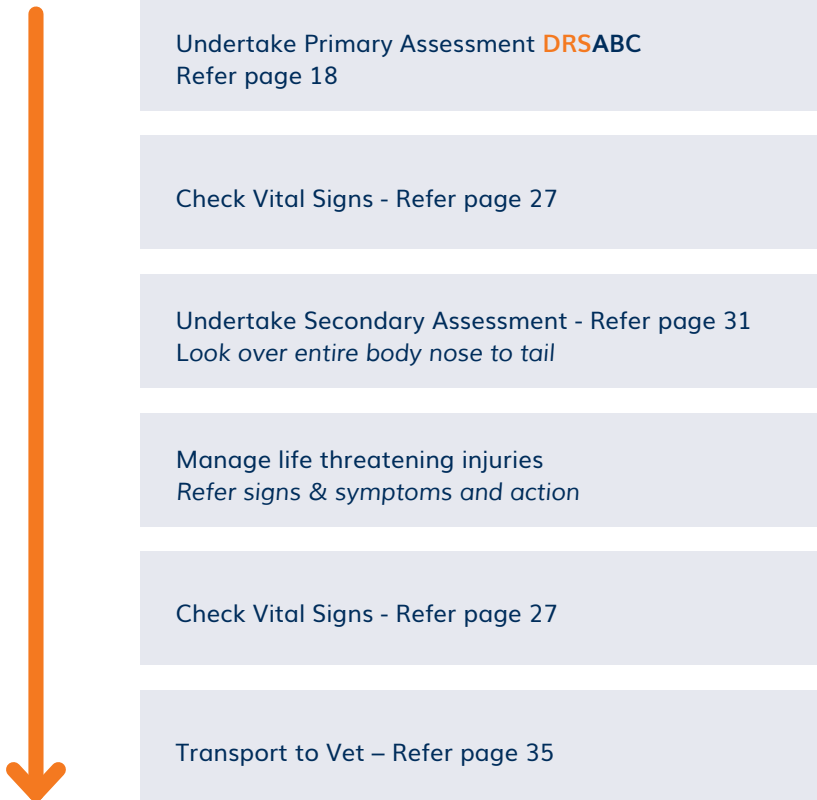


EMERGENCY FIRST AID



EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Flow Chart





*Keep
an eye on pup's
breathing*

ALLERGIC SHOCK ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK

DEFINITION: Dog reacts to a substance, either inhaled, absorbed or ingested, that triggers an allergic reaction.

CAUSE: Insect sting or bite (e.g. bees, wasps, ants); drugs / medications; human foods; chemicals.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Excessive itching, hives come up out of nowhere (raised welts on skin), red, inflamed skin
- 🐾🐾 Face, ears, eyes, mouth swelling
- 🐾🐾 Vomiting
- 🐾🐾 Abnormal drooling
- 🐾🐾 Weakness
- 🐾🐾 Uncontrolled bowel movements
- 🐾🐾 Having difficulty breathing, gasping for air
- 🐾🐾 Gums have turned pale
- 🐾🐾 Dog appears exhausted
- 🐾🐾 Heart rate is racing (tachycardia) but pulse is weak
- 🐾🐾 Legs feel cold
- 🐾🐾 Seizures
- 🐾🐾 Can't be roused; unconsciousness
- 🐾🐾 Monitor heart rate as cardiac arrest may occur if left untreated

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Keep airway open; extend neck, pull tongue forward.
3. Locate and remove allergen; wash away pollens or fluids; for a sting, scrape sideways pulling out may leave some of the sting in the body.
4. Keep dog calm and still. Wrap in warm blanket.
5. Monitor / manage for seizures, refer page 87.
6. If the allergen is a food, plant, chemical or medication, take a sample with you to vet.
7. Monitor breathing during transport to vet.
8. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Apply
pressure to
control bleeding*

AMPUTATION TRAUMATIC

DEFINITION: Amputation is the removal or separation of a limb, or other part, such as tail, ear, or toes from the body by trauma.

CAUSE: Dog experiences vehicle trauma; dog fight; physical abuse or some other traumatic event.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Missing body part such as limb, tail, ear, toes
- 🐾🐾 Severe bleeding
- 🐾🐾 Extreme distress
- 🐾🐾 Shock

ACTION

Never wash an amputated body part, leave task for Vet.

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Apply pressure to control bleeding, refer page 43.
3. Reassure your pet; if you panic, your dog will panic.
4. Treat for Shock, refer page 89.
5. If you are able to locate amputated part,
 - a) wrap in sterile gauze from your first aid kit
 - b) place in plastic sandwich bag
 - c) grab your ice pack and place the 'sandwich bag', with the part in it, on the ice pack and secure it altogether
6. Don't offer your dog any food or water unless instructed by your vet.
7. If the wound continues to bleed, do not remove existing bandage; place a new bandage over the existing bandage and secure.
8. Get to vet urgently.

If you have a driver, and:

 - 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Don't try to
clean wounds with
severe bleeding*

BLEEDING SEVERE

DEFINITION: Bleeding which is life threatening.

CAUSE: Internal and external trauma to arteries, veins and internal organs.

WOUND TYPE	CONDITION	SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
Open wound	Arterial bleed	Pulsing/spurting blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover with dressing or wound bandage and apply pressure • Secure a compression bandage around bandaged wound (never use a tourniquet unless advised by Vet) • If blood soaks through first bandage, add another bandage over the top (do not remove initial bandage) • Lift affected part or limb above heart level • Treat for shock; refer page 89 • Transport urgently to Vet
Open wound	Venous bleed	Prolonged oozing blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover with wound bandage and apply pressure • If blood soaks through first bandage, add another bandage over the top (do not remove initial bandage) • Fit a compression bandage if required • Lift affected part or limb above heart level • Treat for shock; refer page 89 • Transport urgently to Vet
Closed wound	Internal bleed	<p>Lungs: coughing up red frothy blood</p> <p>Stomach: coffee ground like vomit</p> <p>Bowel: black tarry faeces</p> <p>Chest cavity: difficulty breathing, pale gums</p> <p>Abdomen: tense muscle wall, pain, shock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat for shock; refer page 89 • Transport to Vet <p><i>Take a sample of vomit/faeces to Vet for assessment</i></p>



*Barrel chested
dogs are more at
risk of bloat*

BLOAT GDV

Also known as gastric dilatation and volvulus syndrome – GDV

DEFINITION: Dog's stomach dilates and rotates or twists on its axis.

CAUSE: Usually a disease of large, barrel-chested dogs, when stomach overfills with gas, food or fluid.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

EARLY SIGNS

- 🐾 Stomach appears swollen, feeling tight and makes a hollow sound when tapped
- 🐾 Heavier panting than usual
- 🐾 Gums look dark red
- 🐾 Excessive drooling
- 🐾 Crying / whining / whimpering
- 🐾 Acting restless, anxious
- 🐾 Pacing around, back and forth with no direction in mind
- 🐾 Dog trying to vomit but nothing coming up
- 🐾 Spontaneous dry retching every 2–3 minutes
- 🐾 Heart rate increases to around 180 beats per minute (bpm)

LIFE THREATENING

- 🐾 Gums pale and capillary refill time less than normal 2 mins
- 🐾 Dog is unable to get up or stand
- 🐾 Abdomen now hard to the touch

- 🐾 Heart rate increased to more than 200 bpm
- 🐾 Pulse is weak and difficult to find
- 🐾 Breathing has become severely laboured
- 🐾 Shock to cardiac arrest

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Keep your dog calm and quiet, talking in a soothing way; restrict pet's movement.
3. Do not give anything to drink or eat.
4. Get to vet urgently.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.

Note: Barrel-chested dogs are more at risk of bloat e.g. Bulldogs, Greyhounds, Boxers, Dobermans, German Shepherds, Great Danes, Standard Poodles, Akitas and Basset Hounds.



Cool down
burns for
15-20 minutes

BURNS SEVERE




DEFINITION: Tissue damage from a hot, cold, liquid, chemical source.

CAUSE: Contact with hot surfaces, appliances, caustic chemicals, flames, boiling liquids, hot tar (e.g. on roads); sun overexposure (sunburn) and ice.


SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Severity of burns:








1ST DEGREE BURN

-  Fur looks and smells singed
-  Painful fluid lesions / blisters may be visible
-  Skin around burn area may appear red in colour

2ND DEGREE BURN

-  Painful swollen lesions / blisters darkening in colour

3RD DEGREE BURN

-  Burnt through the dermis, affecting deeper tissues
-  Lesions may look black or white
-  Fur pulls or falls out easily
-  Shock
-  Gums turning pale or white
-  Heart rate beating rapidly
-  Breathing is rapid

ACTION

Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18

SAFETY

If you have a cone, put it on dog so it doesn't lick wounds; muzzle dog only if no signs of breathing difficulties or facial injuries; talk in soothing manner; do not rub burnt areas.

LIQUID BURNS / HOT OBJECTS (e.g. BBQ hot plate)

1. Restrain dog.
2. Cool burned area immediately with a gentle stream of cold water. Example; backyard hose, bath, shower attachment or under a tap for 15–20 minutes. The quicker you cool the area; the less damage will be done.
3. Cover the area with a sterile non-stick bandage.

CHEMICAL BURNS

1. Wear rubber gloves to avoid being burned yourself.
2. Remove any contaminated collars, clothing or harness.
3. Flush affected area with cold water for 15-20 minutes, making sure you don't spread the chemicals and burn other areas.

4. Make sure you wrap dog in blanket for trip to vet to avoid hypothermia and / or shock.

If the burn is in the mouth, lie the dog on the side and pour cool water through the mouth, a cup at a time, or use a garden hose for a constant cool flow; make sure the water is running out of the mouth and NOT down the throat. Once flushed with water, cover superficial burns with a sterile non-stick bandage and get to the vet.

ELECTRICAL BURNS

WARNING: Never touch a pet that has been electrocuted without first:

1. Turning off the power at the mains;
2. Unplugging electrical equipment; and
3. Using a broom or some other wooden hook to pull / drag pet away from electrical source and away from pools of water or other liquid (e.g. urine)

Electricity can Kill!

4. Restrain dog; cool burned area immediately by placing injured part or area under gentle stream of cold water for 15–20 minutes.

The quicker you cool the area; the less damage will be done.

5. Cover the area with a sterile non-stick bandage.
6. Wrap dog in blanket for trip to vet.



FIRE / FLAME BURNS

1. Restrain dog; cool burned area immediately by placing injured part or area under gentle stream of cold water for 15–20 minutes.

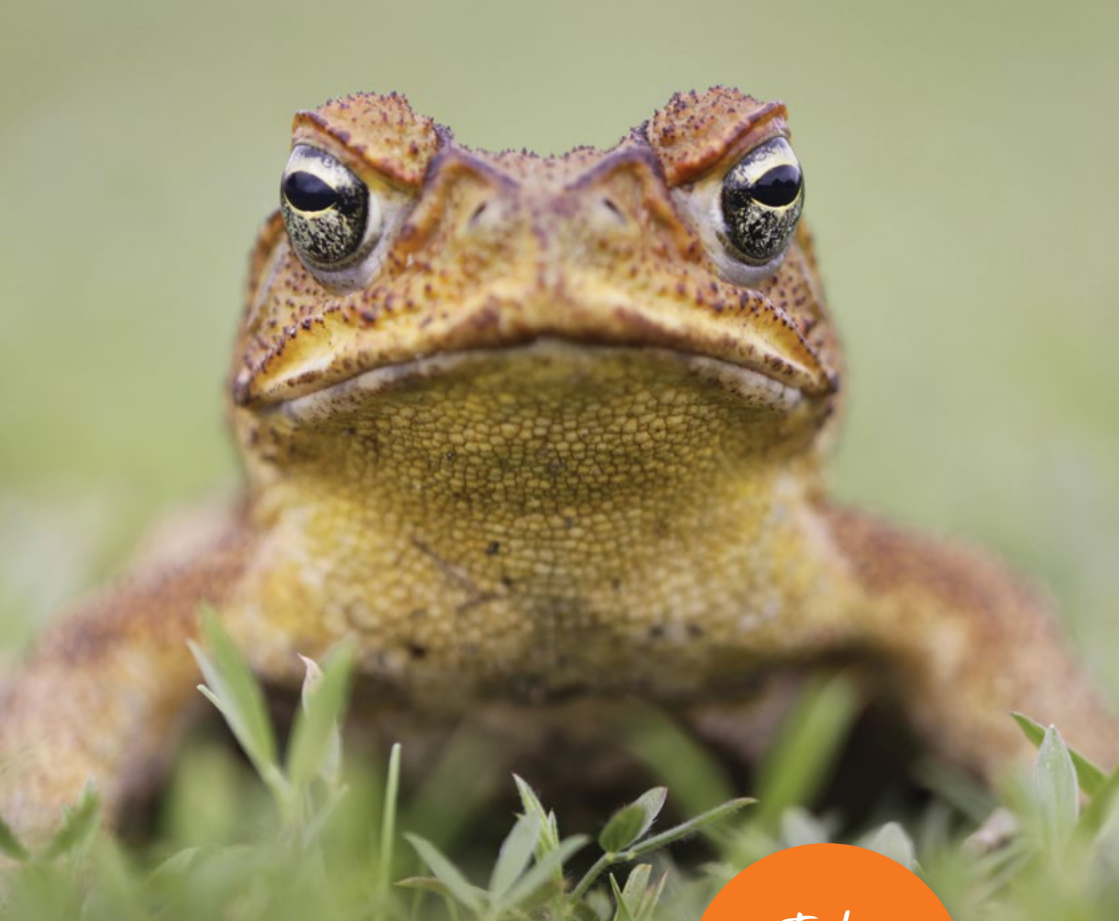
The quicker you cool the area; the less damage will be done. Cover the area with a sterile non-stick bandage.

2. Wrap dog in blanket for trip to vet.
3. Undertake a Secondary assessment, refer page 31.
4. Treat for shock, refer page 89.
5. Continuously monitor breathing while treating, and on the way to the vet.
6. Get to vet urgently.

If you have a driver, and:

-  If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
-  If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.





Toads
are also toxic
for humans

CANE TOAD POISONING

DEFINITION: Poisoning by a feral toad that is toxic to dogs (toad is native to South and Central America and introduced to other countries around the world, including Australia).

CAUSE: When picked up by the dog, toad releases a toxic slime into dog's mouth that covers and sticks to the gums and tongue of the dog and is quickly absorbed.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾 Dog will excessively salivate, drool or begin frothing at the mouth
- 🐾 Gums will be slimy and bright red from the toxin
- 🐾 Dog will start pawing at the mouth
- 🐾 If not treated quickly, vomiting will begin
- 🐾 Dog will appear disorientated
- 🐾 Begin to shiver or experience tremors
- 🐾 Muscles will become rigid or you will notice spasms
- 🐾 Dog may start to have convulsions or seizures
- 🐾 Heart rate will increase and / or become irregular
- 🐾 Cardiac arrest

ACTION

CANE TOADS ARE TOXIC TO DOGS AND HUMANS!

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Lay dog on side.
3. Inspect dog's mouth. Is there red or bright pink slime?
4. Hold dog's mouth turning it down toward the ground and using a paper towel wipe inside of mouth.
5. Thoroughly wash the mouth out for 10–15 minutes using slow trickling hose or tap; direct the water flow from the side of the back teeth to drain out through the front of the mouth. Avoid water going down the throat or into lungs.
6. If you are using a wet cloth, gently and thoroughly wipe the gums, tongue and roof of the mouth for 10 minutes, rinsing and ringing cloth out after each wipe.

For serious cases a combination of steps 4, 5 and 6 is recommended.

7. Manage for seizures, refer page 87.
8. Calm your dog; restrict pet's movement; wrap in warm blanket.
9. If your dog is unconscious or having seizures, take to the vet immediately after removal of venom.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Keep chemicals
& toxic substances
out of reach*





CHEMICAL POISONING

DEFINITION: A dog inhales, absorbs or ingests a toxic substance, which causes a physical reaction.










CAUSE: Household chemicals, garden plants / herbicides, rodenticides, mechanical fluids / oils, human foods toxic to pets.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

INITIALLY

-  You may notice a loss of appetite
-  Begin to show signs of stomach / abdominal pain
-  Appear depressed or low
-  Your dog may have difficulty moving around

SEVERE SIGNS

-  Your dog may experience vomiting and / or diarrhoea
-  Overheating along with disorientation
-  Your dog may have difficulty breathing which could lead to respiratory failure
-  Increased heart rate
-  May have a seizure
-  Visually you may see a burn or smell a chemical near the injury site
-  Shock
-  Possibly a loss of consciousness
-  Cardiac arrest

Sometimes with chemical poisoning you may only see 1 or 2 symptoms, it all depends on the chemical your dog has

encountered. Look around, can you see chemicals close by which have been disrupted; is your dog lying near anything toxic. The container will provide additional first aid information.

It is a good idea to download SDS (safety data sheets), MSDS (material safety data sheets) from chemical manufacturers or suppliers and familiarise yourself with the various first aid instructions.


Never try to induce vomiting if chemicals have been ingested!


ACTION


Never place your mouth over a dog's nose/mouth where chemical contamination exists. Wipe clean before beginning artificial respiration.

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Stay calm, act quickly and rationally; talk soothingly to dog.
3. Call Poisons Information Hotline for guidance on treatment for particular substances. Bottle may also have first aid treatment on label.
4. Using the Secondary Assessment process, look over entire body.

Where possible see if you can identify how and where chemical exposure occurred and treat accordingly by flushing area with water, refer page 31.


 **Skin / Fur:** Wash exposed skin and fur with water for 15–20 minutes.


 **Mouth:** Flush mouth with water; make sure water runs out side of mouth, not down throat, for 15–20 minutes.

 **Eyes:** Flush eyes with water for 15–20 minutes; make sure water runs away from the mouth, so dog can't lick the chemical residue.

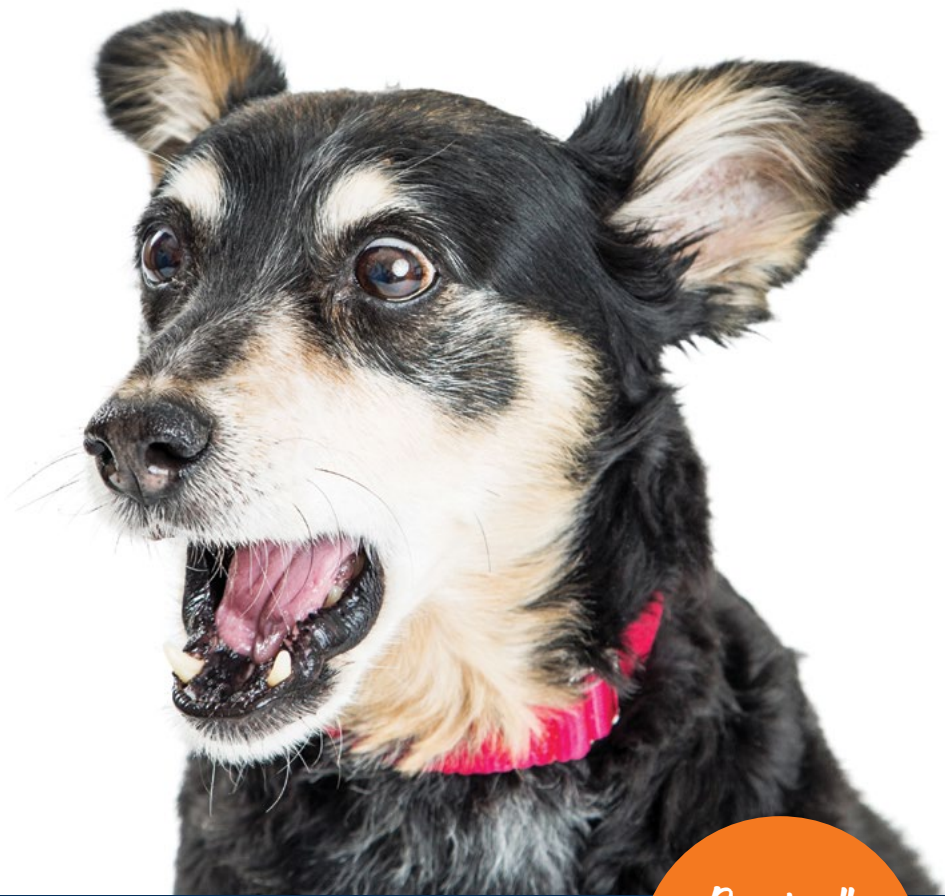
6. Collect samples where possible (e.g. substance, vomit, diarrhoea).
7. Treat for shock, refer page 89.
8. Monitor breathing throughout entire process.
9. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.

 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.





*Do not pull
on fish hooks
stuck in throat*

CHOKING BLOCKED AIRWAY

DEFINITION: Dog unable to breathe due to a blockage in the airway.

CAUSE: An object such as a toy or food gets stuck in the dog's throat.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾 Dog appears agitated or distressed
- 🐾 Pawing at mouth
- 🐾 Has difficulty breathing or begins gasping for breath
- 🐾 Legs splayed with head down as though dog is trying to draw breath
- 🐾 Gums, lips, tongue turns blue or grey
- 🐾 Neck stretched out, if sitting
- 🐾 Drooling uncontrollably
- 🐾 Collapse
- 🐾 Experiences respiratory failure
- 🐾 Cardiac arrest

ACTION



Do not pull on hooks or pull on neck bones in dog's throat

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Open dog's mouth; do not hesitate; and remain calm.
3. Try to remove object using a finger sweep (move finger from one side of mouth to the other); be careful not to push object deeper into throat; be careful if your dog tends to bite; use forceps or tongue depressor if risk of being bitten.
4. Do not pull on hooks (e.g. fish hooks) or pull on the tiny neck bones located in the back of a dog's throat.
5. Small dog: lift upside down with back legs; with dog's back against your stomach, head facing down, place your hands on the dog's belly and push toward lower rib cage sharply 5 times to expel object.
6. Larger dog: Bend over behind dog and lift its rear legs; wrap your arms around dog's belly close to hips (push air out of lungs); thrust your arms/hands forward and toward lower rib cage, and then with both hands/arms pull sharply upwards 5 times to expel object.
7. If dog has collapsed, place dog on right side, with hips raised; place hands on both sides at lower rib cage and give 3–4 quick thrusts.
8. Stop and check airway after thrusts to see if the object has become dislodged and remove it if you can; continue to repeat procedure and

re- check until you arrive at the vet surgery. Do not continue the thrusting process if the object has been removed.

9. If object is removed and your dog has stopped breathing, you will need to begin artificial respiration.
10. If heart stops, begin CPR.
11. Wrap in warm blanket.
12. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

-  If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
-  If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.





Follow primary
& secondary
assessment
measures

COLLAPSE ACUTE

DEFINITION: Collapsed and unresponsive.

CAUSE: Electric shock, disease / illness, allergic reaction (anaphylaxis), internal bleeding, poisoning, seizure, heatstroke, choking, snake bite, cane toad poisoning.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:



-  Your dog may appear confused, disorientated or dazed
-  Breathing speeds up
-  Gums have altered in colour; pale even possibly dark pink / red or blue.
-  Involuntarily falling over
-  Collapsed out of the blue

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Talk soothingly to dog and wrap in a blanket.
3. Undertake a secondary assessment, refer page 31.
4. Treat for shock, refer page 89.
5. Assess for possible spinal injury, refer page 95.
6. Assess for possible choking, refer page 57.
7. Assess for possible snake bite, refer page 91.
8. Assess for possible heat stroke, refer page 79.
9. Assess for possible tick paralysis, refer page 97.
10. Assess for possible cane toad poisoning, refer page 51.
11. If dog is breathing, try rubbing a little honey into gums or on lips.

12. Get to vet urgently.

If you have a driver, and:

-  If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
-  If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Dog bites can
be contaminated
& life threatening*

DOG BITE TRAUMA

DEFINITION: Dog bite wound caused during a fight, causing deep tissue damage. Wounds commonly found in neck, head and legs.

CAUSE: Puncture wound caused by dog's canines penetrates other dog's body, leaving bacteria and other organisms to spread infection deep below the skin surface into underlying tissues.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Severe uncontrollable bleeding
- 🐾🐾 Breathing difficulties, rapid yet shallow
- 🐾🐾 Gums appearing pale or blue
- 🐾🐾 Crying or whining
- 🐾🐾 Damage to eyes, ears, mouth, neck
- 🐾🐾 Injury to leg joints causing obvious limping or inability to walk
- 🐾🐾 Collapse
- 🐾🐾 Shock
- 🐾🐾 Respiratory distress to complete cardiac arrest

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Apply pressure to stop severe bleeding for approximately 3 minutes.

Your dog may be very aggressive, however never muzzle a dog who has injuries to their face, neck or head or who has breathing difficulties.

All bite wounds should be considered contaminated and life threatening

3. Place a sterile wound pad on the site and secure in place.
4. If you see blood soak through the pad, do not remove, simply place another wound pad on top and secure in place.
5. Manage for shock, refer page 89.
6. Monitor breathing throughout entire process.
7. Get to vet urgently.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Begin AR
where breathing is
hard to detect*

DYSPNOEA BREATHING DIFFICULTIES

DEFINITION: Dog has difficulty breathing or laboured breathing; blood oxygen levels become seriously low.

CAUSE: Infectious diseases such as kennel cough, pneumonia, canine influenza, upper respiratory infections and tick paralysis.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Your dog is struggling to breathe, may pant abnormally or noisy rapid breathing
- 🐾🐾 There could be foaming / frothing at mouth
- 🐾🐾 Sitting up stretching neck out to aid breathing with elbows spread
- 🐾🐾 Breathes from stomach area to aid breathing
- 🐾🐾 Bark sounds low and hoarse
- 🐾🐾 Coughing
- 🐾🐾 Gums and lips turn blue
- 🐾🐾 Experiencing anxiety, restlessness and pacing
- 🐾🐾 Respiratory rate greater than 40 shallow breaths per minute
- 🐾🐾 Respiratory failure

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Treat for shock, refer page 89.
3. Search for ticks, refer page 97.
4. Calm your dog; restrict pet's movement.
5. Get to vet urgently.
If you have a driver, and:
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



Isolate power source before anything else













ELECTRIC SHOCK

DEFINITION: Injury where electric current passes through the dog's body.

CAUSE: Chewing power cords; contact with downed power lines; faulty equipment contacts water on floor.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

-  Burns on the body, or on the mouth and lips from biting on electrical wiring
-  Pawing at the mouth
-  Mouth pain or jaw clamped
-  Breathing difficulties, abnormally fast breathing causing distress
-  Coughing
-  Gums and lips blue
-  Profuse drooling
-  Something resembling involuntary twitching, muscular spasms or convulsions
-  There is likely to be a foul smell at burn site
-  Dog may have collapsed, become rigid and unconsciousness
-  Abnormal / irregular heartbeat
-  Cardiac arrest

ACTION



DON'T TOUCH PET UNTIL RELEASED FROM ELECTRICITY SOURCE!

1. Initially only undertake steps 1, 2 and 3 of Primary

Assessment from a safe distance, refer page 19.

2. Turn off the power at the mains and unplug equipment / leads.
3. Use a broom or some other wooden hook to pull / drag pet away from electrical source and away from pools of water or liquid (e.g. urine).
4. Complete Primary Assessment steps 4, 5 and 6. Refer page 19.
5. Keep your dog calm and quiet, talking in a soothing way; wrap in blanket.
6. Treat bleeding only if severe. Refer page 43.
7. If dog's mouth is burnt, use cold compress on way to the vet to limit damage.
8. Monitor breathing and heart on the way to vet. Refer page 27.
9. Get to vet urgently.

If you have a driver, and:

-  If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
-  If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*See the
Vet for all
eye injuries*

EYE INJURIES

DEFINITION: Injury to the eyeball.

CAUSE: Dog fight; running through vegetation; fireworks; gunshot; flying debris; infection; physical abuse trauma; vehicle trauma; fall from height.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Embedded / penetrated object into the eye
- 🐾🐾 Eye may be out of the socket
- 🐾🐾 Squinting or blinking rapidly; something could be in the eye or it could be scratched or punctured
- 🐾🐾 Dog may begin bumping into furniture, doors, walls demonstrating issues with sight
- 🐾🐾 Pet may avoid bright lights
- 🐾🐾 Eye may appear watery, with a green or yellow discharge (shows an infection)
- 🐾🐾 Severely swollen red eye
- 🐾🐾 Comparing to alternate eye pupil looks distorted
- 🐾🐾 Pawing at the eye due to pain and discomfort

Do not attempt to remove an embedded / penetrating object.

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Cover the eye with a clean, saline-soaked cloth / gauze; place a donut bandage

around the eye or object in eye, not on the eye.

Essentially you want to protect and hold the eye in its current place, and then secure everything in place using a rolled bandage around the head.

3. If you don't have a donut or have difficulty making one, use 2 rolled bandages, one either side of eye or object in eye and wrap in place with rolled bandage to ensure the eye is covered and protected and the object is secure.
4. Keep your dog calm and quiet, talking in a soothing way; restrict pet's movement; wrap in blanket.
5. If you have a cone, put it on dog; if time permits, bandage dew claws to prevent further damage, especially if transport to vet is delayed or you don't have a cone.
6. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Always treat
spinal injuries
when managing
falls*

FALL FROM HEIGHTS

DEFINITION: Dog falls from one level to another without control, sustaining an injury.

CAUSE: Stumbles when walking; trips; slips; falls off furniture or a ledge; falls in a ditch or off the back of a car.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Decreased appetite or difficulty eating
- 🐾🐾 Dog is reluctant or refuses to stand or walk
- 🐾🐾 Compared to usual, dog seems lethargic / fatigued
- 🐾🐾 Dog whines, whimpers from pain when lying down or rising
- 🐾🐾 If still able to walk, dog may appear stiff or to be limping
- 🐾🐾 Breathing laboured or struggles to breathe
- 🐾🐾 May appear confused or disorientated
- 🐾🐾 You may see open or closed wounds from the fall or hitting into a hard or sharp object after landing
- 🐾🐾 Shock
- 🐾🐾 Pupils are unresponsive to light
- 🐾🐾 Full or partial paralysis
- 🐾🐾 Unconsciousness

ACTION

Always manage for potential spinal injuries in falls,

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. **Manage:**
 - a) Spinal injury, refer page 95
 - b) Life-threatening bleeding, refer page 43
 - c) Penetrating injury, refer page 85
 - d) Shock, refer page 89
 - e) Eye injuries, refer page 69
 - f) Fractures, refer page 73
3. Calm your dog, talking in a soothing tone; restrict pet's movement; wrap in warm blanket.
4. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

 - 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Muzzle pup
before attending
to fractured limb*

FRACTURES SEVERE

DEFINITION: A break in one or more bones of the dog's skeletal system.

CAUSE: Vehicle trauma; fall from height; physical abuse trauma; crush injury.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾 Dog reacts in pain to touch
- 🐾 Localised swelling or bone deformity
- 🐾 Loss of movement in the injured limb
- 🐾 Unable to walk or stand on leg; carries limb off the ground; limb may appear to be swinging
- 🐾 Bone has pierced the skin (open fracture)
- 🐾 Loud crunching noise (crepitus) on movement
- 🐾 Dog appears confused
- 🐾 Difficulty breathing
- 🐾 Depending on location of fracture, dog could experience total or partial paralysis

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Muzzle your dog to avoid being bitten (unless dog has breathing difficulties, jaw injury or chest injury).
3. Keep animal still, physically restrain to ensure remains still for treatment and to not impact injury further.
4. Place a padded wound bandage on the injured limb and secure splint down to toes.
 - a) Immobilise leg with splint; support the limb above and below the break
 - b) Makeshift splints: piece of wood; ruler; wooden spoon; flattened box; cardboard; folded tea towel; are all good for stabilising fractures
 - c) Cover splint with protective bandage or put a cone on the dog if you have one
5. For an open fracture where the bone protrudes out of the skin, put a donut bandage in place. (or use 2 rolled bandages, one either side of exposed bone); wrap with bandage to ensure the bone is covered and protected (ensure the donut / rolled bandages sit higher than the exposed bone).
6. Place dog in carrier, crate or open box to transport to vet. Do not lie the dog on the injured side.
7. Wrap in warm blanket.
8. Monitor during transport to vet to make sure the dog is staying still and not leaning on injured limb.



*Never rub
frost bitten
areas*

FROSTBITE ISCHEMIC NECROSIS

DEFINITION: Exposure to extreme cold causes injury to body tissues of dog, especially extremities such as nose, toes, ear tips and tail.

CAUSE: Dog spends prolonged time outside in freezing conditions; falls into freezing water or snow drifts; ice balls on feet.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Severity of burns:

1ST DEGREE BURN

- 🐾 Discolouration of skin, ears, lips, tail, face, feet, scrotum
- 🐾 Gums turned a pale, blue or grey colour

2ND DEGREE BURN

- 🐾 Severe blistering of skin

3RD DEGREE BURN

- 🐾 Skin looks darkened or dead – black = gangrene

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Move dog carefully inside.
3. Calm your dog; restrict pet's movement; wrap in warm blanket; keep inside home.
4. Warm affected areas; warm compress or soak in warm water at temperature 40–42 °C (104–108 °F).
5. Pat dog dry – don't rub or massage affected areas.
6. Prevent dog from licking or scratching affected areas.
7. Treat for hypothermia, refer page 81.
8. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Dehydration
is life
threatening*

GASTROENTERITIS SEVERES

DEFINITION: Inflamed lining of the stomach and / or intestines causing vomiting and / or diarrhoea.

CAUSE: Parasites; reaction to medications or food; viral infections; bacterial toxins.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Decreased appetite
- 🐾🐾 Fatigue
- 🐾🐾 Severe episodes of vomiting; will appear foamy and yellow in colour, for example: bile, alternating with dry heaving / retching
- 🐾🐾 Severe episodes of diarrhoea – will look quite dark and gritty or tar-like, for example bleeding in stomach
- 🐾🐾 If not diarrhoea, faeces may appear soft and pale in colour, with streaks of red or undigested food
- 🐾🐾 Dog's abdomen would be painful for dog if touched
- 🐾🐾 Dog refuses to be handled around abdomen and back legs
- 🐾🐾 Fever
- 🐾🐾 Dehydration

ACTIONS

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Keep dog calm, talk soothingly, stay calm yourself, stay close to pet.
3. Wrap in blanket.
4. In separate containers, collect a sample of vomit and a sample of dog's faeces.
5. Get to vet.



It only takes 6 minutes for a dog to die when left in a hot car

HEAT STROKE HYPERTHERMIA

DEFINITION: Heatstroke is a state of hyperthermia (dangerously high body temperature). A life-threatening condition in which the body loses the ability to cool down after being exposed to extreme heat.

CAUSE: Leaving a dog in a car; dog left outside without shade or water; excessive exercise on hot days / walking on hot roads.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

-  Dog will begin to pant excessively
-  Paws will be hot to the touch
-  Excessive drooling
-  May have become agitated and aggressive
-  Experiencing anxiety, distress and disorientation
-  Vomiting
-  Gums appear dark red, dry and tacky to the touch
-  Rapid heart beat
-  Rectal temperature above 39.2 °C (102.5 °F)
-  Collapse

If not treated immediately, dog will go into cardiac arrest



ACTION

Don't put ice directly on skin.

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Calm your dog; talk in a soothing way.
3. Move your dog into the shade or indoors, turning on fans or air-conditioning.

4. Normal temperature: 38.5–39.2 °C (101.3–102.5 °F); use a lubricated rectal thermometer inserted into dog's rectum up to 2.5 cm (1 inch) for up to 1 minute (or until result registers); record temperature for vet.
5. If your dog's temperature is above normal, you must get your dog's temperature down immediately; run cool (not ice cold) water over your dog's entire body; place a towel or sheet over the dog and wet while on the dog to help with the cooling process.
6. Make sure you have airflow over the dog; use a fan or air-conditioner.
7. Monitor temperature every 5 minutes.
8. Treat for shock, refer page 89.
9. Offer your dog a bowl of water to drink.
10. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

-  If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
-  If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Check
temperature
every 5 minutes*

HYPOTHERMIA **SEVERE**

DEFINITION: Dog has a dangerously low body temperature.

CAUSE: Dog spending long period outside in cold temperatures.
Wet or in water for extended period.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Gums turn pale
- 🐾🐾 You will notice violent shivering
- 🐾🐾 Pulse will slow
- 🐾🐾 Breathing will be shallow
- 🐾🐾 Dog will appear lethargic seeming to have a lack of mental awareness and orientation
- 🐾🐾 Frostbite on extremities – tail, tips of ears, scrotum, paw pads
- 🐾🐾 When you shine a pen torch in your dog's eyes briefly pupils look fixed and dilated
- 🐾🐾 Temperature is below normal
- 🐾🐾 Difficulty locating heart beat
- 🐾🐾 Respiratory failure
- 🐾🐾 Collapse and unconscious

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Calm your dog; restrict pet's movement; wrap in warm blanket; keep inside home.
3. Wrap hot water bottle or heat packs in towel and place against dog's abdomen (stomach).
4. If conscious, give warm fluids.
5. Normal temperature: 38.5–39.2 °C (101.3–102.5 °F); use a lubricated rectal thermometer (insert for up to 1 minute in dog's rectum); record temperature.
6. Check temperature every 5 minutes; if below 36.7 °C (98 °F), get immediate veterinary attention. Once above 37.8 °C (100 °F), remove hot water bottle and blankets.
7. Pat dog dry with towel.
8. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



Put floating device on dogs when around water. Attach a leash or rope to maintain hold. Get professional training to teach dogs where and how to exit.



Near drownings can be life threatening

NEAR DROWNING SUBMERSION SYNDROME

DEFINITION: Cardiac arrest from complications after submersion in a body of water.

CAUSE: Dog cannot swim or is unable to get out of pool or dam. Large amounts of water inhaled into lungs causes a lack of oxygen; effects seen as long as 24 hours after water inhalation.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾 Dog has extreme anxiety or distress
- 🐾 Difficulty breathing, coughing and seems to be gasping for air
- 🐾 Gums and lips turning grey or blue
- 🐾 Fluid / water draining from mouth or nose
- 🐾 Hypothermia If untreated
- 🐾 Respiratory failure
- 🐾 Coma
- 🐾 Cardiac arrest

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Consider dangers to yourself: if dog is in river or dam, throw something that floats into the water, attached to a rope, for dog to grab onto; or place a mat on the bank for traction.
3. If dog is in swimming pool; try and grab by scruff and lift out of pool or lead to steps.
4. If your dog has inhaled water or if you are unsure, hold dog upside down, allowing water to drain; if too big to pick up, place on slope with head facing down slope, or raise rear up so head is lower than

rear. If there isn't a slope, it can be achieved if you sit on seat or on ground and position dog so chest and head is at a lowest point.

5. Massage sides of chest in thrusting motion to help expel water (3–4 times).
6. Keep dog calm, talk soothingly, stay calm yourself, stay close to pet.
7. Don't wait for submersion syndrome to manifest; make arrangements to transport to vet immediately.
8. In the car, place dog on right side, head lower than the chest; using a blanket or coat to lift dog's bottom or place a rolled towel under rear / hips to elevate.
9. Treat for shock, refer page 89.
10. Treat for hypothermia, refer page 81.
11. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Never
remove an
embedded object*













PENETRATING INJURY EMBEDDED OBJECT

DEFINITION: An object pierces the skin and enters a tissue of the body, creating an open wound. The object may be embedded in the dog's body.

CAUSE: Dog receives a stab wound, gunshot or arrow shot wound, bite wound; impaled on a steel rod in a car accident; impaled by running into or carrying a stick.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS





Your dog may show some or all of the following:

-   Weapon or object (e.g. arrow, stake) penetrating dog's body, face, eyes or mouth
-   Infection at dog bite puncture site
-   Chest wound with or without an embedded object
-   Severe bleeding (haemorrhage), venous or arterial
-   Breathing difficulties from injury to lungs
-   Shock

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Stabilise object. Use DIY donut bandage, or place two rolled bandages either side of object; then use another rolled bandage to wrap and secure all in place.
3. If object is too long, if possible attempt to cut it down to manageable size without applying pressure to object. Leave donut stabilisation in place.
4. Calm your dog; restrict pet's movement; wrap in warm blanket.
5. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

-   If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
-   If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Do not hold onto
dog during seizure,
move furniture if in
the way*

SEIZURES SEVERE

DEFINITION: A sudden and abnormal neurological reaction that causes involuntary muscle contractions.

CAUSE: Reaction to toxins or allergens; unwell from bacterial or viral infection; abnormal brain activity (e.g. epilepsy).

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

FIRST STAGE (PRE-ICTAL PHASE)

- 🐾🐾 Dog may have a change in behaviour
- 🐾🐾 Nervousness, restlessness, anxiety, stressed
- 🐾🐾 Whining, whimpering
- 🐾🐾 Shaking, shivering and drooling

SECOND STAGE (ICTAL PHASE)

- 🐾🐾 Seizure (lasting up to 5 minutes)
- 🐾🐾 Involuntary muscle contractions / tremors
- 🐾🐾 Dog falls on side and although shaking body appears stiff
- 🐾🐾 Cycling / paddling limbs
- 🐾🐾 Head stiffly extends backwards
- 🐾🐾 Loss of bodily function (urination / defecation)
- 🐾🐾 Drooling increases
- 🐾🐾 Temporary loss of consciousness

THIRD STAGE (POST-ICTAL PHASE)

- 🐾🐾 Disorientated and confused
- 🐾🐾 Thirsty or hungry

- 🐾🐾 Pacing about the room or garden, evident that dog is restless
- 🐾🐾 Continuous drooling

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Move furniture or objects away from dog to avoid injury.
3. Do not touch or hold pet whilst having a seizure.
4. Closely monitor and note how long the seizure lasts to advise vet.
5. After episode, keep dog confined in a quiet room until fully conscious.
6. If pet has sustained an injury before or during the seizure:
 - a) Check for severe bleeding, refer page 43
 - b) Treat for potential heat stroke, refer page 79
 - c) Check and treat for shock, refer page 89
7. Transport to Vet.

If this is the first time your pet has experienced a seizure and is not currently being managed by a vet, transport to your vet immediately.



*Always
monitor for
shock*

SHOCK CRITICAL

DEFINITION: A condition in which the dog's organs and tissues do not receive enough blood flow.

CAUSE: Blood loss; fluid loss; traumatic injury; anaphylactic shock; heart failure. Dog's blood pressure becomes dangerously low.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

EARLY SIGNS

- 🐾🐾 Heart rate is elevated, causing pulse sounds to be strong and bound in the chest
- 🐾🐾 Swinging from anxiety and depression
- 🐾🐾 Gums appear red, with a capillary refill time of 1–2 seconds
- 🐾🐾 Dogs body temperature drops

PROGRESSIVE SIGNS)

- 🐾🐾 Breathing becomes shallow
- 🐾🐾 Pulse weakens and becomes difficult to locate
- 🐾🐾 Eyes look glazed over and unfocused
- 🐾🐾 Physically lethargic
- 🐾🐾 Limbs cool to the touch
- 🐾🐾 Gums take on a new colour, either pale, blue, white or mottled, with a capillary refill time longer than 2 seconds
- 🐾🐾 Dog's temperature lowers dramatically
- 🐾🐾 Dyspnoea / breathing difficulties worsen
- 🐾🐾 Collapse, unconscious, coma
- 🐾🐾 Cardiac arrest

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Calm your dog, talking in a soothing way.
3. Restrict pet's movement, wrapping in warm blanket.
4. Elevate dog's rear end, unless you suspect spinal or hip or back leg injuries.
5. Undertake secondary assessment. Refer page 31.
6. Manage severe bleeding. Refer page 43.
7. Manage fractures. Refer page 73.
8. Get to vet.
If you have a driver, and:
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Consider
all snakes as
venomous*

SNAKE BITE VENOMOUS

DEFINITION: Dog bitten by a venomous snake.

CAUSE: Dog encounters a snake and disturbs it when out in the garden or bushland / woodland (e.g. exploring in or around fallen logs, under leaf or mulch mounds, in tunnels or holes); dog may try to play with or kill snake.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾 2 puncture wounds would be present
- 🐾 Profuse bleeding at bite site
- 🐾 Dog may be trembling, shaking, twitching
- 🐾 Excessive salivating, drooling, frothing at the mouth
- 🐾 Legs become weak
- 🐾 Pupils dilated, not responsive to light or slow to react
- 🐾 Appears agitated
- 🐾 Dyspnoea / Breathing difficulties or breathing becomes shallow
- 🐾 Vomiting or urinating blood
- 🐾 Gums have become pale or white
- 🐾 Body is limp, unable to move (flaccid paralysis)
- 🐾 Respiratory failure
- 🐾 Collapse, unconscious, coma
- 🐾 Cardiac arrest

Consider all snake bites life threatening if you are unsure whether it is of the venomous variety or not.

ACTION

DO NOT WASH BITE AREA. NEVER SUCK OUT POISON. DON'T CUT BITE WOUND. NEVER CATCH SNAKE.

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Keep your dog calm and quiet; restrict pet's movement.
3. Bandage limb with pressure bandage above and below elbow / knee (entire leg).
4. Use a permanent marker pen to make a mark on the bandage where bite wound is located.
5. Wrap dog in blanket and transport to vet.
6. If your dog has been bitten on the body or head, place blanket around dog to immobilise.
7. Transport smaller dogs in crate or box.
8. If you have a driver, sit in the back with the dog stroking and speaking in a soothing manner on way to vet.
9. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



What spiders are in your area?

SPIDER BITE VENOMOUS

DEFINITION: Dog bitten by a venomous spider.

CAUSE: A spider such as, but not limited to, a black widow, red back, brown recluse, tarantula, funnel web, or white-tailed spider, feels threatened and bites dog in retaliation.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 There is localised and intense pain at bite site
- 🐾🐾 Dog comes down with a fever
- 🐾🐾 Vomiting and diarrhoea
- 🐾🐾 Anxiety, restless, distressed
- 🐾🐾 Breathing becomes difficult
- 🐾🐾 Excessive drooling
- 🐾🐾 Bite wound swells or feels like a lump is forming
- 🐾🐾 Tense, painful abdomen
- 🐾🐾 Increased heart rate
- 🐾🐾 Dog has trouble walking or standing from weakened muscles
- 🐾🐾 Muscle tremors and cramping
- 🐾🐾 Seizures
- 🐾🐾 Paralysis

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Apply ice pack or cold compress to bite site.
3. Monitor / manage seizures, refer page 87.
4. Calm your dog; restrict pet's movement; wrap in warm blanket.
5. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



Familiarise yourself with the spiders that are found in your area.



To move a dog with a suspected spinal injury, you will need assistance to transport to the car and the Vet.



*Treat all
impact trauma as
suspected spinal
injury*











SPINAL INJURY TRAUMA

DEFINITION: Damage to dog's spinal cord from trauma or other causes.

CAUSE: Fall from height, road accident trauma, physical abuse trauma, infection, compression from tumour.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

-  Unable to get up or walk
-  Weakness and shaking in legs
-  Walking on knuckles, even if you turn back to paw pad it quickly shifts back to knuckles
-  Appears disorientated or confused
-  Uncontrolled bladder / Incontinence
-  Dog feels pain when touched along back or neck
-  Unable to move neck or neck appears stiff
-  Spine has a crooked or distorted appearance
-  Dog experiences no feeling at area of deformity
-  Paralysed

ACTION

Consider spinal injury for all impact trauma to head, neck or body.

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. While waiting for assistance to move dog, calm your dog, talking in a soothing manner; restrict movement; cover with warm blanket; remain calm yourself.
3. Before carrying to car, make sure car door is open; position the board, with the

dog secured, safely on the back seat. Passenger sits in back supporting dog's head and neck.

4. When transporting dog to vet surgery, make sure the head and neck are supported. Make sure dog's body is supported by a second person.
5. Place dog on a secure surface (e.g. wooden board, small cupboard door that will fit in car). Secure dog on board with towels or cloth, making sure where you tie ends is not near injured area.
6. A technique to put medium / large dog onto a board: Place board close to dog's back while lying on the right side; keeping the dog in a straight position – do not twist – grab loose skin / fur on the back and pull dog toward you and onto the board; secure dog in place.
7. For a small dog: as though it was a board or splint, place your arm under the length of the dog's body, supporting the head at your elbow, hand toward dog's groin. Keeping dog up against your body and your arm straight and firm, gently lift dog onto board or maintain position to Vet. Do not twist dog's body.
8. Get to vet.



Do daily tick checks.

Do daily checks if you live in or visit tick prone areas






TICK PARALYSIS

DEFINITION: Paralysis from a parasite that attaches to dog's body and feeds on the blood, simultaneously injecting a neurotoxin; after a prolonged period, the engorged tick drops off and lays eggs.





CAUSE: Dog becomes exposed to a paralysis tick in areas of bushland/ woodlands (e.g. when on walks or playing) – even in your own garden if you are in a tick-infested area – by brushing up against long grass, shrubs or trees.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS




STAGE 1

-  Change in sound of bark
-  Coughing, retching or gagging
-  Weakness in hind legs, progressing to front legs
-  Anxiety
-  Lethargy

STAGE 2

-  Wobbliness in back legs (appears drunk)
-  Difficulty getting up
-  Excessive salivation, drooling
-  Regurgitation or vomiting
-  Loud panting, grunting on breathing out
-  Inability to swallow
-  Dilated pupils (pupils enlarge)



STAGE 3

-  Body becomes limp (paralysed)
-  Gums cool to touch
-  Gums blue in colour
-  Respiratory failure / cardiac arrest

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Keep dog cool and calm; remove water and food – do not allow pet to eat or drink.
3. Search for ticks and remove:
 - a) Make sure you check in between toes, in ears and nose, under tail, in armpits, on head, in mouth – everywhere!
 - b) If you find a tick remove it and keep looking until you have searched the entire dog – there may be more than one tick!
 - c) Remove any ticks you find by easing out clockwise or anticlockwise with forceps or tick tool, or just pluck out with a quick twist. Don't worry if the mouth of the tick breaks off – removing the tick as soon as possible is the most important thing.
4. Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

 -  If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
 -  If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Ensure all traffic
is clear before
approaching
injured dog*

VEHICLE TRAUMA

DEFINITION: Traumatic injury to dog involving at least one vehicle.

CAUSE: Dog strays onto the road into traffic; walks behind a reversing car in the driveway.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Your dog may show some or all of the following:

- 🐾🐾 Gums turn pale
- 🐾🐾 Head trauma
- 🐾🐾 Glazed eyes / inability to focus
- 🐾🐾 Eye injury / proptosis (eye protrudes from socket)
- 🐾🐾 Spinal injury / paralysis
- 🐾🐾 Severe bleeding from anywhere on the body; open wounds, lacerations
- 🐾🐾 Shock
- 🐾🐾 Breathing difficulties / respiratory failure
- 🐾🐾 Gums appear pale or blue
- 🐾🐾 Disorientated, confused
- 🐾🐾 Stumbling or falling over, lameness, fractured legs
- 🐾🐾 Reluctance to get up and move about
- 🐾🐾 De-gloving of limb, toes, (section of skin torn off)
- 🐾🐾 Vomiting up blood
- 🐾🐾 Black diarrhoea (indicates blood in faeces)
- 🐾🐾 Not eating or drinking
- 🐾🐾 Dog experiences anxiety, depression, aggression
- 🐾🐾 Collapse, unconscious, cardiac arrest

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. Undertake Secondary Assessment, refer page 31.
3. Manage potential injuries
 - a) Treat spinal injury, refer page 95
 - b) Treat life-threatening bleeding, refer page 43
 - c) Treat eye injury / proptosis, refer page 69
 - d. Treat shock, refer page 89
 - e) Treat for fractures, refer page 73
4. Calm your dog; restrict movement; wrap in warm blanket Get to vet.

If you have a driver, and:

 - 🐾🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
 - 🐾🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.



*Prevent exposure
to baits; if unsure,
put on a muzzle
and leash*

WILD DOG BAIT POISONING

DEFINITION: Dog being poisoned by baits used to kill wild dogs during baiting programs.

CAUSE: Dog eats a bait or drinks from a contaminated water supply or eats poisoned dead animals, when exploring working stations in remote Australia.

Major poisons used during State wild dog baiting programs are 1080, PAPP and Strychnine.

1080 WILD DOG BAIT is a manufactured meat meal-based bait, pre-poisoned with precisely 6 milligrams (6/1000th of a gram) of sodium fluoroacetate ('1080'). It is a highly toxic pesticide used to control a range of pest animals in Australia.

Domestic dogs are potentially at risk of poisoning because they are very susceptible to 1080.

PARA-AMINOPROPIOPHENONE (or 'PAPP') is a yellow, crystalline compound that is incorporated into commercially prepared meat baits. They are applied by hand and buried in a shallow hole.

Baiting is usually conducted in Spring in Western Australia and during late Autumn and Winter in the Eastern States.

PAPP is highly toxic for domestic dogs.

STRYCHNINE ALKALOID CRYSTALS is classified as hazardous chemical used for the control of wild dogs. It is a highly toxic substance that is a white bitter and odorless powder. The crystalline substance is used as a pesticide and is often used in a variety of baits; when ingested by dogs, it is extremely toxic and can cause death. Toxicity can also occur from the ingestion of poisoned rodents and birds.

Reference: animalcontrol.com.au

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Knowing what signs to look for and what action to take may improve your dog's chance of survival if poisoning does occur.

The reality is though that once signs of poisoning are apparent, the prognosis even with treatment is poor and many dogs die.

The best plan is to prevent any and all exposures to the baits and or other risks such as eating dead or dying poisoned animals or toxic vomit.

1. If you want your dog to get a bit of exercise when you pull up for a rest break; put on a full muzzle that restricts the ability to eat or drink;
2. Keep a leash on your dog at all times; and
3. Train your dog to not pick up foreign objects up off the ground



If your dog eats any of these poisons it will likely prove fatal. You must get Veterinary treatment urgently.

1080 WILD DOG BAIT SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

The time-lag between ingestion and appearance of clinical signs may be a reflection of the dose received, and can range from 3 to 20 hours. Signs observed are the result of nervous and respiratory system dysfunction and include:

- 🐾🐾 Frenzied behaviour such as running and howling
- 🐾🐾 Hypersensitivity to sound and light
- 🐾🐾 Failure to respond to owner
- 🐾🐾 Vomiting
- 🐾🐾 Urinating and defecating uncontrollably

If early action is not taken, signs progress to:

- 🐾🐾 Convulsions (seizures / fitting)
- 🐾🐾 Difficulty breathing
- 🐾🐾 Respiratory failure
- 🐾🐾 Coma
- 🐾🐾 Death

PARA-AMINOPROPIO- PHENONE (OR 'PAPP') SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

The prognosis for poisoned dogs is extremely poor unless an antidote (methylene blue) is promptly administered by a

Veterinarian. (preferably no more than 30 minutes after ingestion).

- 🐾🐾 Highly increased heart rate
- 🐾🐾 Tongue, lips and gums pink to blue/grey in colour
- 🐾🐾 Lethargic
- 🐾🐾 Salivating (dribbling)
- 🐾🐾 Dazed and wobbly
- 🐾🐾 Dragging feet and sitting down
- 🐾🐾 Unable to lift head and move limbs
- 🐾🐾 Unconsciousness

STRYCHNINE ALKALOID CRYSTALS SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- 🐾🐾 Dilated pupils
- 🐾🐾 Agitation, noises of pain
- 🐾🐾 Stiffness in the muscles and standing without any movement
- 🐾🐾 Seizures
- 🐾🐾 Involuntary muscle twitching
- 🐾🐾 Violent convulsions
- 🐾🐾 Signs of heat stroke / hyperthermia – Rectal temperature above 39.2 °C (102.5 °F)
- 🐾🐾 Losing large amounts of blood uncontrollably.

- 🐾 Breathing difficulties
- 🐾 Possible respiratory collapse and death

ACTION

1. Undertake Primary Assessment, refer page 18.
2. If your dog is showing signs of poisoning, protect it from injuring itself or others by wrapping it tightly in a blanket, or putting them in a crate.
3. Call local Vet immediately; the Vet will be aware of local baiting programs; will ask you relevant questions.
4. If it is convulsing (seizure fitting), keep fingers clear of its mouth – it will not swallow its tongue.
5. Only if dog is able to stand you may be able to induce vomiting at Vet instruction – administer 3–5 flakes of washing soda. (1cm³ crystal)
6. Wash / wipe muzzle (external) over with flowing water.
7. To prepare for Artificial Respiration; clean nose and mouth; careful not to wash toward throat.

8. Get the CPR face shield out in case you need to begin artificial respiration.
9. Keep the dog as quiet and cool as possible to reduce energy demand.
10. Take temperature of dog to determine hyperthermia (heat stroke) Refer page 27 + 79.
11. If temperature is above 39.2°C place sheet on dog and spray continuously until arrive at the Vet or until temperature stabilises
12. Get to vet urgently.

If you have a driver, and:

- 🐾 If your dog stops breathing, begin artificial respiration on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 23.
- 🐾 If your dog's heart stops beating, begin CPR on the way to the vet surgery, refer page 25.

*Quoted reference from public resource:
animalcontrol.com.au*

Normal temperature of a dog is:



**38.5–39.2 °C
(101.3–102.5 °F)**

HOW TO INDUCE VOMITING

USING WASHING SODA CRYSTALS

WARNING: Call the Vet before you administer anything which will make your dog vomit.

The reason for this is because you don't really know what the risk will be to your dog.

- Without supervision you may cause aspiration pneumonia; and
- You do not know the correct dosage for the size of your dog.

You want your dog to have the best possible chance of survival and speaking to your Vet or the local Vet of the area you are in will make sure you give them just that.

ADMINISTERING THE DOSE

1. Use hand sanitiser to clean your hands of all bacteria;
2. Put on gloves, you do not want to get the poison on your skin;
3. Have your dog manually restrained; be careful because your dog may be in a lot of pain and may lash out at you;
4. Open the bag of crystals and remove the dose the Vet recommends;
5. With one hand lift the upper jaw, squeezing the upper lips over the teeth and with the other hand drop the crystal/s to the back of the throat; and
6. Immediately close the mouth with one hand and the other stroke your dog's throat until the dog licks its lips.

Vomiting hopefully occurs within a few minutes but remain connected with the Vet.

URGENTLY GET TO THE VET.

Take a sample of the vomit and deliver to the Vet.

Reference: animalcontrol.com.au
and relevant Safety Data Sheet

FIRST AID FOR HUMAN POISON EXPOSURE

POISON	INHALATION	SKIN CONTACT	EYE CONTACT	INGESTION	CRITICAL
Sodium fluoroacetate (1080)	No inhalation risk.	Absorption via intact skin is minimal.	Flood with water into open eyes for at least 15 minutes.(Ensure remove contact lenses first)	Seek immediate medical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply artificial respiration if not breathing. • Seek medical attention.
Para-aminopropiophenone (or 'PAPP')	Risk is very low however, move to fresh air.	Remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin, scalp and under nails thoroughly with soap and water.	Flood with water into open eyes for at least 15 minutes.(Ensure remove contact lenses first)	Seek immediate medical assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply artificial respiration if not breathing. • Seek medical attention.
Strychnine Alkaloid Crystals	If inhaled move to fresh air.	Remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin, scalp and under nails thoroughly with soap and water.	Flood with water into open eyes for at least 15 minutes.(Ensure remove contact lenses first)	Seek immediate medical assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply oxygen if breathing is difficult. • Apply artificial respiration if not breathing. • Seek medical attention.



*Quickly
bandage to protect
from infection*

WOUND MANAGEMENT

DEFINITION: An injury involving a break in body tissue, usually involving the skin.

CAUSE: Trauma to the body.

WOUND TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MANAGEMENT
Embedded / penetrating object	Object has penetrated skin, possibly to deeper tissues or body cavity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not remove object. • Secure object in place with DIY donut bandage, securing that in place with a rolled bandage. • Make sure you do not apply pressure on object; you just need to stabilise it.
Cut	Skin has been sliced opened by something sharp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For severe bleeding apply direct pressure over the wound with a clean cloth, sterile bandage or gauze. • Elevate • Do not attempt to clean wound when bleeding is severe • If blood soaks through first bandage, add additional bandage; don't remove first one as it may cause further bleeding. • May need stitches or other medical treatment, so you will need to go to the vet.
Laceration	Tear in the skin, a jagged cut.	
Puncture	Small hole in skin and underlying tissue caused by a sharp object.	
Tear	Skin has been ripped off.	



IS YOUR
DOG
FURSAFE?



AT FURSAFE® WE BELIEVE THAT KNOWING HOW TO ADMINISTER EMERGENCY FIRST AID IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST FOR ALL PET OWNERS.

This guide has been designed with simple instructions to assist you in preserving your dog's life after experiencing a life-threatening injury or illness until professional veterinary care can be sourced.

Whether you are at home, travelling, camping or you work on the land or in the security services this guide is for you.



FARMING



SECURITY



CARAVANING



CAMPING



HOME



PARK



HIKING



BOATING