

Make Your Own Pet First Aid Kit

As a pet owner, you need to make sure to have basic first aid supplies for your pets in your household. Carefully putting together a well-provisioned first aid kit will make you more ready to deal with a medical emergency if one confronts you for your dog, cat or other pet. Have this kit in the house and fully stocked with supplies at all times, next to the first aid kit for your family. Many of the items in a family first aid kit can be used for pets, too.

Pet First Aid Supplies Checklist

<p>Phone numbers and your pet's medical record (including medications and vaccination history)</p> <p>Veterinarian:</p> <p>Emergency veterinary clinic:</p> <p>Animal Poison Control Center: 888-4ANI-HELP (888-426-4435) <i>(there may be a fee for this call)</i></p>	<p>You need to know these numbers before you need them. If you do not know the number of the emergency clinic in your area, ask your veterinarian.</p>
<p>Gauze</p>	<p>For wrapping wounds or muzzling the injured animal</p>
<p>Nonstick bandages, towels, or strips of clean cloth</p>	<p>To control bleeding or protect wounds</p>
<p>Adhesive tape for bandages</p> <p>*Do NOT use human adhesive bandages (eg, Band-Aids®) on pets</p>	<p>For securing the gauze wrap or bandage</p>
<p>Milk of magnesia Activated charcoal</p>	<p>To absorb poison <i>Always</i> contact your veterinarian or local poison control center <i>before</i> inducing vomiting or treating an animal for poison</p>
<p>Eye dropper (or large syringe without needle)</p>	<p>To give oral treatments or flush wounds</p>



Hydrogen peroxide (3%)	To induce vomiting <i>Always</i> contact your veterinarian or local poison control center <i>before</i> inducing vomiting or treating an animal for poison
Digital Thermometer —you will need a "fever" thermometer because the temperature scale of regular thermometers doesn't go high enough for pets	To check your pet's temperature. Do <i>not</i> insert a thermometer in your pet's mouth—the temperature must be taken rectally.
Muzzle (in an emergency a rope, necktie, soft cloth, nylon stocking, small towel may be used)	To cover your pet's head. If your pet is vomiting, do <i>not</i> muzzle it!
Leash	To transport your pet (if your pet is capable of walking without further injury)
Stretcher (in an emergency a door, board, blanket or floor mat may be used)	To stabilize the injured animal and prevent further injury during transport

Always remember that any first aid administered to your pet should be followed by immediate veterinary care. First aid care is not a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until it receives veterinary treatment.

*From: the American Veterinary Medical Association
[<http://www.avma.org/firstaid/supplies.asp>]*

