

First Aid for Pets:

What Every Owner Should Know

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First Aid for Pets

- ◆ Trauma
- ◆ Seizures
- ◆ Poisoning
- ◆ Burns and Smoke Inhalation
- ◆ Allergic Reactions
- ◆ Heat Stroke
- ◆ CPR
 - When
 - How
 - Choking

Trauma

- ◆ Types of Trauma
 - Vehicular trauma
 - Falling
 - Hit with objects
 - Bite wounds
 - Weapons



Trauma

- ◆ Approach the pet with caution
 - Remember he/she is very painful
 - Makeshift Muzzles
 - Pantyhose
 - Tie
 - Leash
 - Ace bandage
 - Remove muzzle once they are in the car



Trauma

◆ Initial Wound Care

- Prevent/slow blood loss
- Minimize further contamination of the wound
- Apply a bandage
- Apply pressure
- This should only take a few minutes
- Do not remove penetrating objects

Transporting Trauma Patients

- ◆ Provide support as your pet climbs into the car
- ◆ If your pet is unable to walk, use a sheet or blanket as a stretcher
- ◆ Have someone familiar sit with the pet in transport



Transporting Trauma Patients

◆ Cats

- Remember they are very scared and often difficult to handle
- Use a towel or thick blanket
 - “Kitty Burrito”
- Place in a box with a lid
 - Don’t try to force them into a carrier
 - Secure the lid!



Transporting the Trauma Patient



- ◆ Spinal cord injury, broken back or neck
- ◆ Rigid board
- ◆ Tape, cloth, bandage material to immobilize
- ◆ Support the neck, chest and hind end
 - Be careful not to make the strap across the chest too tight

Seizures

- ◆ Disturbance of normal electrical activity in the brain which results in a “seizure event”
 - *Focal or partial seizure*
 - Involuntary muscle activity of one body region
 - Example: Staring with facial twitching

Seizures

- ◆ Disturbance of normal electrical activity in the brain which results in a “seizure event”
 - *Focal or partial seizure*
 - *Generalized seizure*
 - Involuntary muscle activity affecting the entire body simultaneously
 - Example: Unconscious, collapsed with violent, whole body movement

Seizures

- ◆ Disturbance of normal electrical activity in the brain which results in a “seizure event”
 - *Focal or partial seizure*
 - *Generalized seizure*
 - *Post-ictal stage*
 - The pet is disoriented and uncoordinated, but alert and responsive

Seizures

◆ Pets with existing seizure disorder

➤ Hospitalization is necessary if:

✓ *Cluster Seizures*: The seizure recurs in a short period of time

✓ *Status Epilepticus*: The seizure lasts more than 5 minutes

◆ Pets who have never had a seizure

➤ Hospitalization is always recommended

Seizures

What's the Problem?

◆ Dangerous surroundings

- Stairs
- Heavy objects
- Hot objects

◆ Length of the seizure

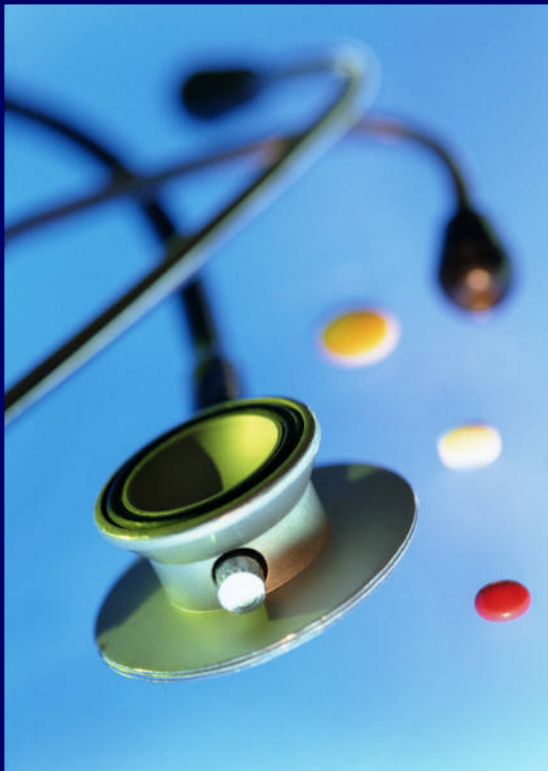
- Secondary injury
 - High body temperature
 - Brain Swelling



Seizures

- ◆ Prevent injury
 - Block off stairs
 - Move potentially dangerous objects
- ◆ Be careful not to get bitten
 - Do not try to pull out the tongue or place objects in the mouth
 - Don't cradle them like a baby
 - Don't try to hold them down
- ◆ Transport them to the hospital

Toxicities



- ◆ Ingestion of substances which can cause a potentially life threatening situation
- ◆ Topical application of over the counter flea and tick products
- ◆ Wide range of clinical signs

Toxicities

◆ Call Animal Poison Control

(888) 426-4435

There is a \$50.00 fee

◆ Induce vomiting

- Ingestion was witnessed and less than 4 hours
- The pet is alert
- Be sure the substance is one where vomiting is not harmful (Ex: Corrosive substances)

Toxicities

- ◆ Induce vomiting
 - Hydrogen Peroxide
 - ✓ Dose: 1-2 tsp/10 lbs
 - ✓ Repeat dose *ONCE* if vomiting does not occur within 15 minutes
- ◆ Transport to hospital for further decontamination and supportive care if indicated
- ◆ Bring the case number assigned by animal poison control

Toxicities

- ◆ Ethylene glycol
AKA: Anti-freeze
- ◆ Rodenticides
AKA: Rat and mouse poison
- ◆ Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication
- ◆ Cats who ingested Lilly of the Valley

The sooner your pet is seen by a veterinarian, the better the chance for a positive outcome

Burns and Smoke Inhalation



◆ Wound Care

- Place a wet, cool cloth (NOT COLD) over the burn sites
- Change the cloth in transport if it becomes warm
- Cover the site to prevent contamination

Burns and Smoke Inhalation



- ◆ If it is possible provide oxygen at the scene
- ◆ Transport to hospital as soon as possible

Allergic Reactions

◆ Common Causes

- Bites of venomous insects and reptiles
- Vaccines
- Antibiotics/medication
- Topical flea/tick preventative, heartworm preventative

◆ Usually occurs immediately

- Seconds to minutes
- Delayed for several hours

Allergic Reactions

◆ Systemic

- Closing of the airways
- Shock
- Bleeding

◆ Local

- Hives
- Swelling



Allergic Reactions

◆ Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)

- Do not try to give if the pet is lethargic or showing evidence of trouble breathing
- Dose : 1 mg/lb
- 25 mg tablets or an elixir 12.5 mg per tsp
- Be sure it is not Benadryl Allergy®

◆ Call the hospital

◆ Transport to the hospital for further care

Heat Stroke

- ◆ Severe elevation in body temperature due to exposure to high ambient temperatures
- ◆ Common Causes
 - Confining pets to automobiles
 - Leaving them outside with no shade or water
 - Exercise on hot, humid days or early in the warm weather season

Heat Stroke

◆ Predisposing Factors

- High environmental temperatures
- Lack of acclimation to warm weather
- Exercise on hot, humid days
- Obesity
- Pets with breathing abnormalities
- Previous heatstroke

Heat Stroke

◆ What are the signs?

- History of predisposing factors
- Excessive panting
- Brick red gums
- Warm to the touch
- Collapse
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Seizures or Coma



Heat Stroke

◆ Prevention

◆ Treatment

- Move the pet to a cooler environment
- Cool water, NOT COLD applied to the abdomen, feet, under the arm, between the legs, on the neck
- Place them in front of a fan or in air conditioning
- Transport to the hospital for evaluation, supportive care and further treatment

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

- ◆ When is it necessary
 - The pet is unconscious and not breathing
 - ✓ The chest is not moving
 - ✓ The gums are blue or white
 - A heartbeat can not be heard
 - ✓ Listen for a heart beat
 - ✓ Check for a pulse

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

- ◆ If the pet is not breathing
 - Lie the animal on its side
 - Open the mouth, pull the tongue forward and out
 - Extend the neck forward
 - Check the airway for foreign objects, holding the tongue out and forward
 - Hold jaw closed and give 5-6 breaths into both nostrils



Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

- ◆ If there is no response, check for a pulse and audible heart beat
- ◆ If there is no pulse or heart beat, begin cardiac compressions
 - Find the widest part of the chest cavity and depress it by 2 - 3 inches
 - If alone: 1 breath to every 5 – 7 compressions
 - If there is a second person:
 - Compress 80-100 times/minute
 - Breathe 16-20 breaths/minute

Choking

- ◆ How do know your pet is choking?
 - Usually involves a known source
 - Gums are blue
 - No noise (Whining, coughing, snorting)
 - Leaning forward with neck extended and front legs are pointed outward
 - Lose consciousness

Choking

- ◆ Pull the tongue forward and check the airway for a foreign object
- ◆ If the object can not be reached
 - Heimlich maneuver
 - Small pets
 - Larger pets
 - 3 quick maneuvers
 - Swipe the airway



Summary

◆ Key Points to Remember

- Remain calm
- Check your pet and treat as needed
- Get help to transport your larger pet
- Be safe!
- If possible, call the hospital in transit

580

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→ EMERGENCY

MAIN ENTRANCE

THE
END

Thank You
Any Questions?

