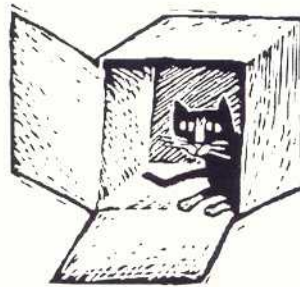


Emergency Pet Care

In the event of an earthquake, fire, accident, or other emergency, it may be necessary for you to provide first aid to your pet. Pet first aid is immediate and temporary care given to your injured pet until it can be taken to a veterinarian for more definitive medical care and attention.



Prepare a First Aid Kit

Keep a first aid kit on hand for yourself and include items to make it "pet-friendly," including telephone numbers for your veterinarian and the local veterinary urgent care clinic, record of your pet's vital signs (normal pulse and breathing rates), health and vaccination records, and photographs of your pet in case it should become lost.

Recognizing an Emergency—Get to know your pet's behavior and health. Use that knowledge and your common sense to recognize when your pet is experiencing a health emergency. Watch for:

- Crying, whining, or yelps
- Bleeding or obvious deformities
- Unusual odors in the pet's environment, such as gas, smoke, or chemical
- Unusual behavior, such as dizziness, confusion, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Signs of shock, including rapid, weak, or absent pulse; unconsciousness; cool limbs; and rapid, slow, or difficult breathing

Emergency Action Steps

- **Check:** Is the scene safe? If not, seek help. Check the injured animal only when it is safe to do so.
- **Call:** Telephone for help, but do **not** call 9-1-1 for an animal emergency. Start with your veterinarian, emergency animal hospital, local animal control, or the humane society. If you suspect poisoning, call National Animal Poison Control (1-888-426-4435, \$45 fee).
- **Care:** If it is safe to do so, provide first aid as needed and transport your pet to a hospital, veterinarian, or shelter for further care.

Basic First Aid—Consult your veterinarian for more complete advice on providing first aid to your pet, especially if it has any ongoing health issues.

1. **Check for breathing.** Administer rescue breathing or CPR, if needed.
2. **Control bleeding.** Carefully apply pressure to the wound.
3. **Warm the animal.** Wrap a thermal blanket around the animal's body.
4. **Elevate.** Place a blanket beneath the animal's hind end to slightly elevate it. Do not do this if you suspect a neck or back injury.
5. **Transport your pet to a veterinarian or animal hospital immediately.**



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