

First Aid For Your Pet

The main thing to remember is that if you're worried about your pet, then let us know. You can contact our main surgery located at Salisbury Road on 01904 643 997.



York Emergency Vets is our Out Of Hours service and is based at the Salisbury Road surgery. If you ring our Salisbury Road surgery on 01904 643 997 and we are closed you will be able to direct your call to one of our out of hours vets or nurses.

We have written this booklet as a guide for some of the more common emergencies you and your pet may encounter. Please call the practice if you are at all concerned.

How to recognise an emergency. If your pet:

- ★ is having difficulty breathing or isn't breathing
- ★ is unresponsive
- ★ is collapsed and struggling to get up
- ★ is seizing/ had a seizure
- ★ could have eaten something toxic
- ★ could have been bitten by an adder
- ★ isn't bearing weight on one of their legs and could have broken a bone
- ★ seems wobbly when walking or suddenly not able to walk well
- ★ has been vomiting for more than 24 hours
- ★ has a sudden bloated abdomen and is uncomfortable

Heatstroke

This is commonly seen in animals that have been left in cars/caravans/ conservatories on hot days, but also dogs that have been taken on long walks in the heat. They can quickly overheat and become unwell as a result.

Quick tips:

- ★ In warm and hot weather walk your dog during the coolest parts of the day- dusk and dawn
- ★ Ensure your pets have plenty of access to shade
- ★ Ensure they have access to water at all times

Please consult your vet for advice if you are concerned your pet has heatstroke.

Stay calm and follow these steps:

- ★ move them to a cool and shaded area
- ★ offer them cool water
- ★ pour cool water over them. Avoid very cold water as this can cause shock
- ★ **CARE** wrapping damp towels around them as this can help but they do become warm very quickly so should be replaced every 5-10 minutes

Seizures

If your dog is having a seizure:

- Stay calm
- Be careful as their behaviour can change
- Turn off the lights and keep the surroundings quiet
- Try not to move them
- Be aware they may pass urine or faeces

Seizures lasting longer than 3 minutes or more than one seizure in 24 hours (cluster seizures) require veterinary attention.

The period after a seizure is called the post ictal period and you may notice your animal's behaviour has altered. This can be confusion, lethargy or aggression so be careful. They may also seem very hungry and thirsty but try not to offer them a large meal in case they have another seizure.

Road Traffic Accidents- RTA

Stay calm and assess the safety of yourself and others.

GET SOMEONE TO CONTACT THE NEAREST VET IMMEDIATELY

Approach from the front and speak gently.

Move the animal away from traffic.

Use a large blanket as a stretcher if a large dog.

Cover with a blanket to reduce heat loss.

See below for bandages and how to stop bleeding if necessary.

Bleeding

Apply firm pressure onto the wound and hold it in place.

A towel/piece of clothing is appropriate if no bandage is available.

Bandaging material can be used but CARE should be taken.

Placing a temporary leg bandage:

1. Place non adhesive dressing over the wound
2. Cover this with cotton bandage, taking care to hold the non adhesive dressing in place as you do this
3. Cover with self adhesive or crepe bandage

You should be able to fit two fingers under the bandage.

NOTE- this does not include a tightening layer as this could cut off circulation to your pets limbs.

This is a temporary bandage and should be used before bringing to the vets, not as a long term solution. It may be that your pet needs these wounds cleaning and suturing which is best done when the wound is fresh. Other treatments may be appropriate also.

You can use a tourniquet on a leg or tail if you are worried you are struggling to stop bleeding however this is a last resort and should only be used whilst you are travelling to the vets. We advise leaving this on for no more than 20 minutes.

Do's and Don'ts for some common pet first aid situations

Always stay calm and assess your safety first

DON'T give human medicine to your pet unless advised by your vet.

Burns and Scalds

DO run cold water over the affected areas for five minutes

DO keep your pet warm in severe cases

DO contact us

DON'T apply creams or ointments

DON'T apply bandages over the burns or scalds

Choking

DO bring your pet to the vet straight away

DO try to remove the object if it is safe to do so

With two people you can try to remove a ball if it is stuck. Lie the pet on its side. One person opens the mouth while the other person applies sudden and sharp pressure to the abdomen, just behind the last rib. Be ready to catch the ball!!!

Broken bones

DO keep your pet confined and secure on the way to the vets

DO apply pressure if bleeding- be gentle

DON'T apply a splint or bandage

Coat Contamination

DO bathe your dog

DO clip off badly affected areas of fur

DO prevent them from licking the substance, a buster collar is appropriate

DON'T use turpentine or paint removers on your pet

Adder Bites

DO apply a cold compress to the bite

DO carry to the car

DO bring your pet to the vets

DON'T apply any creams or ointments

CPR- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED YOUR PET ISN'T BREATHING OR DOESN'T HAVE A HEARTBEAT PLEASE SEEK VETERINARY ATTENTION.

Here is an outline of CPR for your pet.

First off check the ABC's.

ABC

A is for AIRWAY
Carefully pull tongue from the mouth, don't use your fingers. Check for obstruction and remove this if present and safe to do so

B is for BREATHING
Look for rise and fall of chest or check for movement of nostrils or warm air passing through them

C is for CIRCULATION
Feel or listen over chest where elbow lies for heartbeat

1. Place your pet on their right side so that their left side is facing up, on a firm flat surface.
2. Compressions are done at the midpoint of the chest. For cats use one hand to compress the chest from both sides. For small dogs use one hand and for large dogs use two hands interlocked.
3. Perform two chest compressions per second at the widest point of the chest- to the rhythm of 'Staying Alive'.
4. Each compression should depress the chest by $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$. Keep your arms straight and swap regularly as it is easy to become tired.
5. After 30 compressions stretch the neck, close the mouth and blow down the nose to give a breath. Give a 1 second breath and a 1 second release. Do this twice.
6. Check B and C again and repeat if no breathing or heart beat.



Pet First Aid Kit

- ★ Wound wash
- ★ Non adhesive absorbent dressing
- ★ Cotton wool
- ★ Roll of self adhesive or crepe bandage
- ★ Self adhesive tape
- ★ Blunt ended scissors
- ★ Gloves
- ★ Tick remover
- ★ Blanket- large blankets for bigger dogs can be used as a sling if necessary

*Caution should be taken if bandaging your pets as if too tight they can cut off circulation. If using a bandage this should only be temporary and your pet should be seen by your vet as soon as possible.

Common toxins

- ★ Food such as grapes, raisins, chocolate, macadamia nuts, onions, leeks, garlic and xylitol (sugar free sweetener), caffeine, mouldy foods, nicotine
- ★ Batteries
- ★ Antifreeze
- ★ Lilies, tulips, daffodils, azaleas, poinsettia, conkers and other plants (including their bulbs)
- ★ Keep human medications out of reach! Ibuprofen is particularly toxic to dogs and cats and paracetamol to cats
- ★ Rat poison

Animal Poison Line -24/7.

This is for pet owners worried that their pet has eaten something toxic. They will not give a treatment plan but can advise on if veterinary attention is required and what symptoms to look out for.

£35-45 fee.

01202 509 000