



Auckland Veterinary Hospital

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Client Fact Sheet #50

FIRST AID (puppy school)

In all cases where emergency first aid is required your dog should be taken to the vet as soon as possible. First aid is only to try and stabilise your dog until you can be seen by the vet. If possible telephone the vet to let them know you are coming and get some one to drive you so that you can concentrate on your dog with out having to worry about the road!

THE ABC's

Airway: Make sure there is a clear airway so that your dog can breathe. The head and neck should be gently extended and the tongue pulled out. If practical sweep any foreign matter out of the mouth, be careful not to get bitten.

Breathing: Feel for air from the nostrils and listen for breath sounds. Normal breathing should be smooth and regular. The chest should rise all fall with each breath taken.

Circulation: Look at mucous membranes (gums) they should be pink.

WHAT TO DO

Bleeding: apply pressure with cotton wool or a cloth and bandage. If the bandage becomes bloody leave it on and apply another layer.

Poisoning: if you are more than 20 minutes away call the vet to let them know what poison it is and ask whether you need to induce vomiting. Never try to induce vomiting unless you are advised to do so by a veterinarian. If you are closer than twenty minutes away take straight to vet with the poison packet if possible.

Hyperthermia / Heat stroke: Common during summer your car can become an oven with in 5 minutes. Dogs should be taken to cool place and cooled down using a tepid water bath or by using towels soaked in cold water. Pay special attention to the pads of paws and belly area.

Burns: Flush with cold water for at least ten minutes. You can apply cool wet compresses before you get to the vet.

Fractures: If you suspect a fracture, and there is an open wound (where you can see the bone). Cover it with a clean damp cloth. In all fracture cases minimise movement.

SHOCK:

Whatever the emergencies always treat for shock in almost all cases there will be some level of shock.

Some signs of shock are:

Shivering

Rapid Breathing

Cold extremities (paws, ears, legs)

Pale mucous membranes (gums)

Keep the animal warm and minimise stress including noise and movement. Take your dog to the veterinarian immediately.

Your First aid kit should contain

- A blanket, sheet or towel
- Bottle of water
- Cotton wool
- Bandages
- Sticky tape
- Scissors
- A muzzle (panty hose or a long shoelace works well)
- Your normal vet and emergency vets phone number

If you have any questions please ask one of our experienced staff or phone us on 818 5697