

Emergencies in Pets

Bite Wounds - if wounds are large wrap them in a clean cloth to prevent contamination. Apply pressure if they are bleeding profusely. Call us immediately to arrange to see the vet.

Bleeding - apply firm pressure until bleeding stops. This may take up to 10 minutes. Do not apply tight bandages as this may cut off circulation.

Breathing Stops - check to see whether the animal is choking on anything. Check to see if there is a heartbeat. Call the vet immediately.

Burns - (*symptoms include: singed hair, blistering, redness of skin, swelling*). Flush the wound with lots of cool, running water. Do not apply ointments or creams. Call us immediately to arrange treatment.

Choking - (*symptoms include: difficulty breathing, excessive pawing at the mouth, blue tongue and lips*). Try to keep the animal calm and call us immediately. Try to look in its mouth to see if a foreign object is visible but be careful your pet does not bite you.

Diarrhoea/Vomiting - You should not give your pet anything to eat or drink until you have spoken to us. Feeding may prolong the vomiting/diarrhoea.

Fractures - (*symptoms include: pain, inability to use the limb or holding the limb at an odd angle*). Do not try to set the fracture by pulling on the limb. Contact us immediately and try to support the limb as best possible until the animal is seen.

Heatstroke - (*symptoms include: rapid/laboured breathing, vomiting, high body temperature, collapse*). Contact us immediately. Do not try to cool the animal without advice from a vet as overcooling can be just as dangerous.

Poisoning - (*symptoms include: vomiting, convulsions, diarrhoea, excessive salivation, weakness, depression, pain*). Contact us immediately for advice. Make sure you let the vet know what may have caused the poisoning (rat poison, insecticides, etc.) Bring any packaging with you to the surgery so the vet can identify the poison exactly. Do not make the animal vomit.

Seizures - (*symptoms include: salivation, loss of control of urination or faeces, violent muscle twitching, loss of consciousness*). Move the animal away from anything which could harm it during the seizure. Do not try to restrain the animal. Try to make a note of how long the seizure lasts. When the seizure is over (it may last 2 – 3 minutes), keep the animal calm and quiet. Call us immediately for advice.

Shock – (*symptoms include: irregular breathing, dilated pupils*). Animals may go into shock due to a serious injury/accident or fright. Keep the animal quiet and warm and contact us immediately.

If your pet cannot walk you could use a board/blanket as a stretcher to get it into the car.

On many occasions it is better to get the animal to the surgery rather than request a house visit as we will have access to all possible drugs/equipment which may be needed to treat your pet as quickly as possible.