

Emergency care for dog owners



This leaflet has been produced by
Vets Now Ltd who provide a dedicated
Out Of Hours emergency clinic in your area.

**Vets now**
Improving the lives
of vets & pets

Emergency Situations

In an emergency situation it is important to try to remain calm. Always phone your vet before attending in order to check which surgery to go to. When calling the vet please have a pen and paper ready to write down any instructions or directions. Outwith daytime practice hours the Vets Now emergency clinic is available to provide you immediate first class care. Maps with directions to your local Vets Now clinic are available from your vet or on our website at www.vets-now.com

What to do in an emergency...

These are some of the most common emergencies that occur in dogs and some general advice on how to deal with them. Remember this leaflet is not designed to replace your vet! Always seek veterinary advice if you are concerned about your dog.

Wounds:

- If the wound is very dirty run clean water over the area then gently cover with a clean dressing, cling film or a towel, then seek help.
- If there is persistent bleeding, pressure can be applied with a bandage. **Do not remove the bandage** to check it as this will increase blood loss. Have your dog checked by a vet as soon as practical and remember that tight bandages should never be left on for more than a couple of hours.
- Never tie anything around a limb to stop bleeding.

Road Traffic Accidents and other Traumatic Injuries:

- If you think your dog has been hit by a car have him checked as soon as possible.
- Internal bleeding can occur without showing any outward signs initially.
- If you suspect your dog has a broken leg or head injury, you should carefully slide him onto a towel or blanket. Use this as a stretcher for transportation to the surgery and contact your vet immediately for advice.

Collapse:

There are various possible reasons for collapsing many of which will require emergency attention, these include heart, lung, bone and neurological conditions. If your dog collapses please contact your vet immediately.

Seizures (Epileptic Fit):

When dogs have a fit, they may fall to one side, possibly lose consciousness, start shaking and their legs may "paddle". In the event of a fit:

- Move any hazards to avoid further injury.
- Stay clear of your dog's head.
- Never attempt to put anything in your dog's mouth as he may accidentally bite you!
- Make sure the room is quiet and dark until he has started to recover and contact your vet for further advice. **Prolonged fitting is an emergency.** You should contact your vet if your dog does not stop fitting within 5 minutes.

Poisons:

Prescription drugs and some plants and flowers can be poisonous to dogs. If you think your dog may have ingested these please contact your vet immediately.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea:

In otherwise healthy adult dogs with a single episode of vomiting and/or mild diarrhoea:

- Starve for 24hrs and give small amounts of water frequently. After this start a light diet (chicken, white fish, pasta) for 2-3 days before gradually returning to normal food.

Please contact your vet for advice if your dog has:

- Repeated vomiting or diarrhoea, especially in puppies, small dogs and old dogs.
- Vomit or diarrhoea containing blood.
- Your dog is trying to vomit unsuccessfully or his abdomen appears swollen. In this event contact your vet immediately as he may need urgent treatment at the clinic.