

During a visit yesterday, a client and I were discussing what to include in a Pet First Aid Kit. There are several websites including the AVMA <http://www.avma.org/firstaid/supplies.asp>, and Canine Heroes Foundation <http://www.canineheroesfoundation.org/petfirstaid.html> that offer information on Pet First Aid. The Red Cross offers a first aid class for both dogs and cats! (I have taken the canine first aid class and found it to be thorough, informative and easy to follow. It even includes a reference book for basic emergencies).

Here is what I recommend for a basic pet first aid kit at home: Please keep in mind that any medications should be discussed with a veterinarian prior to use and veterinary care should follow any first aid as soon as possible.

- 1) Sturdy plastic case to keep everything in. This should be something you can easily transport for a road trip or day at the park.
- 2) List of pet names, identifying marks, microchip or tag number, vaccination status, current medications and any relevant medical history. Store this in a sealed plastic bag to avoid damage from moisture. This is especially helpful if there is ever a disaster or chance that you and your pet may be separated.
- 3) Flexible, self-stick bandage wrap
- 4) Sterile gauze squares
- 5) Telfa pads or other non-stick pads to go directly over wounds
- 6) Roll gauze
- 7) Triple antibiotic ointment
- 8) Saline eye wash (NOT contact solution)
- 9) Rectal thermometer that reaches 105 degrees F.
- 10) Vaseline
- 11) 3% Hydrogen Peroxide (always check expiration date)
- 12) Scissors
- 13) Ice Pack
- 14) Nylon leash (can be used to make a quick muzzle for a painful animal)
- 15) Tweezers/forceps
- 16) Buffered Aspirin (81mg) - do not give without discussing with a veterinarian
- 17) 1" Medical tape
- 18) Activated charcoal - do not give without discussing with a veterinarian

19) Diphenhydramine 25mg tablets (Benedryl) - do not give without discussing with a veterinarian.

20) List of local veterinary emergency clinics, animal poison control (there is a charge for this service) and the name of your regular veterinarian.

During a pet emergency, always remember to keep your safety a priority. Wounded or painful animals can be unpredictable and may bite. Anticipate this and take precautions by using a muzzle or nylon leash. There are several books and DVDs available that show different techniques for pet first aid. I'd also be happy to offer a basic first aid class if the interest was there.

Enjoy the summer and be safe! As always, please contact me with any questions 517 337-4800 or info@schultzvetclinic.com

-Dr. Malinak