

# Basic First Aid For Your Dog



As with traditional first aid, you learn basic dog first aid in the hopes that you never have to use it...but if you do need it, it'll be the best gift you've ever given yourself. This article is meant only as a very quick review guide.

To actually learn the various techniques, such as dog CPR, it is important to learn from a veterinary health professional. This will ensure that you have understood and mastered all of these first aid techniques for your dog in the correct manner. This will make all the difference in those few moments you have should an emergency situation occur.

Whether you've had the training or not, however, it is vital that you stay calm in an emergency situation, so that you will be able to think clearly. You'll also want to call your vet as quickly as possible, because only a vet can make sure that your dog has truly recovered from the event, and will be able to treat any damage that has occurred. If you can't get a hold of your vet, call the nearest emergency veterinary clinic. Always call first, to make sure they're open and ready for you. Keep these numbers near your phone with the rest of your emergency information.

If CPR is required, you should perform this technique only if you are trained and are

extremely competent in its administration. Doing dog CPR incorrectly can do more harm than good. Either way, seek veterinary assistance immediately.

This doesn't mean that there is nothing else that you can do. Between the time of the emergency and when a vet can have a look at your pooch. These include:

- 🐾 Keep your dog warm by wrapping him/her in a heavy towel or blanket. Even if it is warm where you are, if your dog goes into shock, s/he may be much colder than the temperature of the place.
- 🐾 Try to restrict your dog's movements. This will stop him/her from exacerbating any injuries.
- 🐾 If there is someone around, get help...it's always easier with two.
- 🐾 If there is a cut or bite, apply pressure to a bandage made out of sterile gauze or a clean handkerchief.
- 🐾 If the emergency is a burn, apply a cool compress to it very gently, and keep it in place until you get to the vet's.
- 🐾 Even if you believe your dog has swallowed something poisonous, do

not induce vomiting.

🐾 If it appears that your dog is choking – signs include difficulty swallowing, drooling, pawing at the mouth, and gagging), do not attempt to remove the item, as you may force it further down, or cause greater injury to the throat or windpipe.

🐾 If it appears that your dog is suffering from heatstroke, bring him or her to a cool place out of the sun. Sponge your dog with cool (not too cold, or you'll induce shock). Encourage your dog to take frequent small sips of water.

🐾 If you believe your dog has frostbite, bring him/her into a warm place right away. To thaw the frostbitten areas, gently and slowly apply moist towels that are no warmer than room temperature. Do this often until the areas become flushed. If the frostbite is severe enough, it can result in damage to the tips of ears or paws, so even when you've treated the frostbite, it's very important to have a vet check it out as soon as you can. Do not put a frostbitten dog into a bathtub of warm water, or sit him/her in front of a fireplace. This can induce shock, or in the worst case, heart attack.

🐾 If your dog suddenly collapses, touch/handle as little as possible, as s/he may have a broken bone or internal injury that you can't detect without the proper equipment. Check pupils for dilation, check for breathing,

and check for a pulse if you know how.

🐾 If your dog appears to be going into convulsions, either once, or repeatedly, stay away from him/her as s/he may bite unintentionally. If the dog seems to need to be restrained because s/he may injure him/herself, do so by simply laying a towel over him/her.

The trick is generally to get professional help as quickly as possible, and try to keep your dog as safe and comfortable until that time. If you don't know what to do, the safest thing is not to do anything until the vet can help out.

You'll find more about first aid your dog at [www.all-about-puppies.com](http://www.all-about-puppies.com).