



HAWAIIAN
HUMANE
SOCIETY

GUIDE TO PET EMERGENCIES

courtesy of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

ACCIDENT	TREATMENT	WHEN TO CALL VETERINARIAN
BLEEDING (EXTERNAL)	Place a thick gauze or clean towel over wound and apply continuous pressure onto bleeding area until clotting occurs.	IMMEDIATELY
BLEEDING (INTERNAL)	Keep animal quiet and warm. Do not attempt first aid.	IMMEDIATELY
NOT BREATHING	BEGIN ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION AND CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR). Clear pet's mouth of foreign matter. Close hands over muzzle, cover nose with thin cloth and blow directly into nostrils 12-15 breaths/min. CONCURRENTLY BEGIN CPR. Lay dog on its right side on flat surface. Find heart by feeling deep into socket of pet's left leg and counting 3-4 ribs back towards tail. Place heel of hand on that area and compress 60 - 80 times/min. Compress chest one to two inches for large dogs and less than one inch in small dogs/cats.	IMMEDIATELY
DIARRHEA	Do not feed pet for 12 hours. Water can be given to prevent dehydration.	IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST OVER 12 HOURS
FRACTURES	Muzzle dog first or wrap cat in thick towel. Control bleeding and keep pet warm. Transport to vet on wooden board or thick blanket.	IMMEDIATELY
HEAT STROKE (rapid or difficulty breathing, collapse)	Cool pet down with cold water (hose or tub). Put ice pack onto pet's head and cool pet till temperature reads 100.5°-102° F (use rectal thermometer).	IMMEDIATELY
POISONINGS (symptoms of convulsions, weakness, salivation, diarrhea, vomiting, rapid breathing)	Find what pet has ingested and call vet immediately. Provide vet with information on poison ingested. Vet may give instructions over phone.	IMMEDIATELY - BRING IN POISON CONTAINER IF AVAILABLE
TOAD POISONING (salivation, staggering, convulsions)	Wash mouth out with strong stream of water. Wipe gums with towel.	IMMEDIATELY
VOMITING (only)	No food for 12 hours. Limit water to small quantities multiple times a day.	IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST OVER 12 HOURS

- When animals are sick or injured, they may bite or scratch. Use caution when handling them. Muzzle dogs or use a thick towel on cats to restrain them. How to muzzle: Use a strip of cloth, rope, etc. Make a loop and secure over animal's nose. Bring ends under chin and fasten securely behind ears.

VETERINARIAN: _____ PHONE: _____

Household Hazards

Taken from the *Pets Magazine Care Guide for Puppies & Kittens*

As the saying goes, “Curiosity killed the cat.” This is probably even more valid in the case of young kittens and puppies (particularly kittens).

Puppies and kittens have the ability to get into everything; some of them are spectacular contortionists. Anyone with young kids is well aware of the trouble little ones can get into. Baby gates, highchairs, harnesses, car seats and such; they’re all for one purpose—to try to keep the child out of harm’s way. A similar approach must be taken with young pets.

One of the first things to bear in mind is that an 8-week-old kitten or puppy is very tiny and has little matchstick-like bones. You can imagine the consequences of walking full-weight on top of the little mite. So, rule one in your household should be to keep them enclosed in a certain area and not under everyone’s feet. It’s just too dangerous to consider anything else.

Kitchen

The kitchen is the most common place for accidents to occur, even for ourselves. Keep pets out of the kitchen (when possible). Kittens can easily jump up and burn a paw on a hot stove; or knock over a boiling pot onto themselves, you or a small child. Things dropped in the kitchen (heavy pots, sharp knives) could fall on the baby pet. Kittens have been locked in refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, washing machines and dryers—often with dreadful consequences. Most of our cleaning products are kept in the kitchen and many are toxic if ingested. Make sure they’re safely locked out of harm’s way.

Bathroom

This is where most of us keep the household pharmacy. Keep all medicines locked away. Aspirin, for example, is highly toxic to cats and is likely to cause gastric bleeding in puppies.

Sewing Room

Puppies and kittens love to chew and play with things. What

could be nicer than thread, needles, buttons and pins? Many kittens end up in surgery with a needle penetrating the tongue, lung or intestine.

Electric Cords

A baby pet will chase and chew on a moving vacuum cleaner cord, so don’t allow the pet to follow you around the house with the vacuum. Hide other electric cords—or if they’re getting chewed on, coat them with a bad-tasting preparation from the pet store.

Houseplants

Young animals will chew on them, so keep plants out of the reach of pets. Some plants are toxic, particularly oleander, poinsettia and philodendron.

The Garage

Antifreeze is highly toxic—unfortunately cats and dog (and even children) love the sweet taste. Be very careful with antifreeze. Store portable coolers with their tops closed. Oil, tar and paint should be safely stored. Creosote is deadly to cats and can be absorbed through the skin!

