

EMERGENCY!

Are there any emergency tips that I should know?

There are several emergency situations that are common. The following recommendations may prove valuable.

Hit by car: Let your dog stand up by themselves. If they cannot, transfer him/her to a hard board for transporting. Apply pressure to wounds with soft gauze. Keep your dog warm to prevent shock. An injured dog may bite, even people that it knows very well. Use caution for the safety of both you and your dog. Seek medical attention quickly. Have a friend call the veterinary hospital to let them know your dog is on the way.

Overheating: If you suspect your dog has collapsed from heat stress, start to cool them down with a cool water bath, fans, cold compresses, or ice packs. Seek medical attention immediately.

Minor Burns: Treat with cool water and seek medical attention.

How can I prevent emergencies by making my home and yard safe for my pet?

Keep track of your puppy at all times. Young puppies can move very fast and should be in a fenced yard or on a leash anytime they're outside, and under vigilant supervision inside and out. Kittens and puppies are naturally inquisitive, which can often lead to serious injury. Here are some tips on how you can make your house safer for the new arrival.

That's shocking: Young animals love to chew when they're teething. Keep electrical wires out of reach or use a pet repellent spray on exposed wiring.

They'd die for some chocolate: Chocolate can be dangerous. It contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to pets. Sweets, cakes, and cookies can also upset a young puppy's G.I. tract and lead to diarrhea and vomiting, which can be serious.

Treats can be threats: Never give turkey, chicken, or rib bones as a treat. They can splinter and cause serious injury.

Common household killers: Cleaning agents, bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, paint, gasoline, and rat poison. Keep them locked up.

Check the antifreeze: Pets are attracted to the odor and the sweet taste of antifreeze. Store it high and tightly sealed. Make sure to wipe up any spills on the garage floor. Window washing solution also contains antifreeze. And remember, engine warmth promotes catnaps, so honk your horn to wake pets under the hood.

Killer houseplants: Poisonous plants include lilies, philodendron, dieffenbachia, elephant ear, eucalyptus, spider plants, azalea, ivy, amaryllis, pyracantha, oleander, boxwood, Jerusalem Cherry, and plant bulbs. For a more complete list and symptoms go to the following web site. <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

Keep off the grass: If you treat your lawn with chemicals, keep pets away. Read and follow label directions carefully.

It fit yesterday: Puppies and kittens grow rapidly. Collars and harnesses can be rapidly outgrown, leading to serious wounds.

Take care of personal items and medications: Cosmetics, shampoos, skin creams, hair “perm” solutions, depilatories, suntan lotions, sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin, and acetaminophen can all be lethal to pets.

It’s not a toy: Don’t leave plastic bags out. Inquisitive young animals, especially kittens can suffocate.

The heat is on: Watch out for hot irons, coffee pots, and space heaters. Kittens and puppies will suddenly be able to jump to new heights.

A dip tip: Keep covers on hot tubs and swimming pools. Kittens and even young puppies can fall in and not be able to get out.

‘Tis the Season: Keep holly, mistletoe, and especially Christmas tree tinsel out of reach.
Cozy up: Always use a fireplace screen.

Do you eat with that mouth? Rule of thumb: If any or all of something will fit in a mouth, it’s dangerous. Watch out for cigarette butts, rubber bands, balloons, sewing needles, thread, string, and ribbons and, yes, even pantyhose. Because what goes in must come out, often via surgery.

This client information sheet is based, in part, on material written by Ernest E. Ward Jr., DVM

© Copyright 2002 Lifelearn Inc. Used with permission under license. April 27, 2015.