

Animal owners are encouraged to be prepared with a pet first aid/medicine kit in their household and vehicle, in addition to their human supplies.

First Aid

- Backpack, duffel bag, waterproof box or case to store your pet's supplies
- Veterinarian's complete contact information and contact information for local 24-hour veterinary emergency clinics
- Vaccination records, medical history, list of medications and a current photo of your pet for visits to a veterinarian who is unfamiliar with your pet
- Refer to the [American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\)](#) pet first-aid basic procedures or download the [ARC free pet first-aid app](#) with veterinary advice for emergencies; follow-up with immediate veterinary care
- Absorbent sterile gauze pads and gauze rolls
- Self-adhering bandages that are water repellent that don't stick to fur and secure gauze pads in place
- Cotton balls or swabs
- Syringes or eye dropper to flush wounds or give oral medications
- Digital medical thermometer to take your pet's temperature rectally
- Ice pack or gel pack and hot pack; NEVER apply directly to an animal's skin, consult with your veterinarian for the proper use
- Disposable latex or nitrile gloves
- Scissors with blunt end, tweezers and magnifying glass
- Tick removal kit, fine-point tweezers or tick removal hook
- Liquid dishwashing detergent for bathing and towels
- Small flashlight
- Emergency blanket also known as Mylar blanket



Medicine

- Sterile irrigating solution to flush wounds
- Antiseptic solution like Hydrogen Peroxide 3% USP for oral debriding agent/oral wound cleanser
- Antibiotic spray/ointment over the counter
- Emetic like Hydrogen Peroxide 3% USP may be used to induce vomiting in the event of poisoning; always contact your veterinarian or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435 consultation fee may apply) "before" inducing vomiting or treating an animal for poisoning



Pet First Aid Kit



- Milk of Magnesia and charcoal can be used to absorb and counteract poisoning; consult your veterinarian first before use
- Petroleum jelly to lubricate the thermometer
- Styptic powder is an anti-hemorrhagic agent that stops light wounds from bleeding
- Silver sulfadiazine ointment for burns; include only if it's approved by your veterinarian and obtain veterinary care quickly.
- Diphenhydramine for dogs and cats is an antihistamine mainly used to treat allergies from insect stings or bites and as a mild sedative; include only if it's approved by your veterinarian
- Bee sting wipes
- Saline eye solution and artificial tear gel
- An extra supply of the veterinary prescribed medicine your pet takes in a waterproof container

Place the first aid kit in a handy location and notify all members of your family where it is. Prepare one kit for the home and another lighter kit for travel. Remember that the application of first aid is **only a first step to control the emergency**. The next immediate step will be **to go to your veterinary specialist** to obtain professional help to treat the problem.

Ensure to check your pack often for expired supplies and/or replacement needs.

First Aid administered to your pet should be in consultation with your veterinarian and followed by immediate veterinary care.

For additional preparedness information, visit the [CDFA CARES website](#).