

# Pet First Aid Basics

This playbook provides pet owners with step-by-step instructions for managing common medical emergencies with their pets at home. It includes primary assessment and dealing with situations like bleeding, choking, and poisoning.

## Step 1: **Safety First**

Ensure your safety and the safety of the pet. Approach the pet cautiously to avoid getting bitten or scratched. If necessary, restrain the pet gently.

## Step 2: **Assessment**

Perform a quick assessment of the pet's condition. Check for responsiveness, breathing, and any obvious injuries.

## Step 3: **Call for Help**

Contact a veterinarian or an emergency pet hotline immediately if the situation is serious.

## Step 4: **Bleeding**

Manage any bleeding by applying pressure with a clean cloth or bandage. If bleeding is severe, use a tourniquet.

## Step 5: **Choking**

If the pet is choking, open the pet's mouth carefully to see if a foreign object is visible. If safe to do so, gently attempt to remove it. If not, perform a modified Heimlich maneuver.

## Step 6: **Poisoning**

If poisoning is suspected, identify the poison if possible. Do not induce vomiting unless instructed by a professional. Provide the product container or label to the veterinarian.

## Step 7: **CPR**

In cases of cardiac arrest, perform pet CPR. Place the pet on its side, check for obstructions in the mouth, and alternate between chest compressions and rescue breaths.

## Step 8: **Transport**

Secure the pet for transportation to a veterinary clinic. Use a carrier, a pet stretcher, or a makeshift sling to move the pet with minimal discomfort.

# **General Notes**

## **Emergency Kit**

Always have a pet first aid kit ready with items like bandages, antiseptic wipes, tweezers, and emergency contact information for your veterinarian.

## **Stay Calm**

Maintain a calm demeanor throughout the emergency to keep the pet as relaxed as possible.

## **Regular Training**

Consider taking a pet first aid course to be better prepared for medical emergencies.

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