

First Aid Kit for Pets

A fully equipped household first aid kit will generally contain most of the supplies you may need for your pets. However, if you're like me, I have a kit specifically for our dogs just in the event of a medical emergency. The following list is a simple first aid kit for your pets. Find a sturdy duffel, case, 5gal bucket, etc (ours is a heavy construction workers' zippered tool bag); preferably waterproof:

- Latex (or hypoallergenic material) gloves
- Gauze sponges (a variety of sizes)
- Gauze roll, 2-inch width
- Elastic cling bandage
- Material to make a splint
- Adhesive tape, hypoallergenic
- Non-adherent sterile pads
- Small scissors
- Tweezers
- Magnifying glass
- Grooming clippers or safety razor
- Nylon leash
- Towel
- Muzzle
- Compact emergency "blanket" (available in the camping department of many stores)
- Water-based sterile lubricant
- Hydrogen peroxide (3%)
- Rubbing alcohol;
- Topical antibiotic ointment
- Antiseptic wipes
- Insect sting stop pads
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Instant cold pack
- Epsom salts
- Baby-dose syringe or eye dropper
- Sterile eye lubricant
- Sterile saline wash
- Safety pins (medium size 4)
- Tongue depressors
- Benadryl – making a note of the appropriate dosage based on body weight
- Glucose paste or syrup
- Styptic powder or pencil
- Plastic card (such as an old credit card) to scrape away stingers
- Petroleum jelly
- Penlight with replacement batteries
- Clean cloths/towels
- Needle-nose pliers
- Prescription Meds (remember to rotate monthly to keep extras current)
- List of emergency phone numbers including those for your pet's veterinarian, an after-hours emergency veterinary hospital, and the National Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435).

Add additional items you feel would be valuable in an emergency...we're in earthquake country – so keep this kit in a handy location - you never know when it maybe critically needed.

An informative guide on how to provide first aid for your pets can be found in *Pet First Aid* by Barbara Mammato, DVM, MPH, a handbook sponsored by the American Red Cross and The Humane Society of the United States.