

There are many times when you may need to administer first aid to your pets, before you can take them to your vet. This is a brief guide to some of the steps that can be taken to help them as much as possible.

If your pet has any problems requiring veterinary attention, please telephone first, even if immediate attention is required.

We are limited at home as far as equipment for first aid is concerned, but improvisation is the name of the game!

### General Tips:

- Don't feed your pet.
- **NEVER** give your pet any human preparations, unless specifically instructed by your vet. Certain human preparations are especially toxic, eg: ibuprofen to dogs and paracetamol to cats.
- If injuries involve sharp or penetrating objects, do not try to remove them.
- **Road traffic accidents or falls:** telephone the surgery and seek advice immediately. Immobilise your pet as far as possible if back injuries are suspected, eg: on a flat board or tray.
- **Choking:** if your pet has swallowed an object and is choking, use coal tongs or barbecue tongs to try and grasp the object. Using your fingertips may prove difficult, as the object will be covered in saliva. A lodged ball is an acute emergency if you cannot remove it immediately. A corkscrew may be useful to remove a lodged ball.
- **Heat stroke:** if you suspect heat stroke, remove your pet from the source of the heat and cover it with cold wet cloths or towels. Seek veterinary attention immediately. Do not immerse it in a cold bath

- **Poisoning:** if you suspect poisoning, obtain the details of the poison and contact the surgery for further advice. Do not cause vomiting or give anything by mouth. Bring in the packaging of the poison, where possible.
- **Eye injuries:** prevent any further trauma to the eye from rubbing, i.e. put on a Buster Collar or make an Elizabethan collar (as described later) and seek veterinary attention.
- **Fitting animals:** wait until the fit has stopped and then approach with caution, as your pet may bite. Seek veterinary attention.
- **Snake bites:** if you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake, you are likely to see two small puncture wounds and the area will start to swell. This needs immediate veterinary attention. Where possible, carry the pet instead of allowing it to walk.
- **Cuts:** if the cut is not bleeding, do not dress it; leave it as is and seek veterinary attention. If the cut is bleeding, use a clean tea towel, kitchen towel or a handkerchief with cling film or Sellotape to make a temporary bandage until you can get to the surgery. If there is copious bleeding, apply pressure. Never secure with an elastic band. Dressings can be purchased from Reception.
- **Burns:** animals may come into contact with hot surfaces, eg: stoves or car exhaust pipes, and burn their paws or other parts of the body. Where possible, plunge the burnt part into shallow cold water and seek veterinary attention.
- **Stings:** wasp and bee stings are painful initially but then settle. If you can see the sting, hold an ice cube or cold cloth over it. The barb of the sting can be removed by rubbing gently; do not use tweezers. Veterinary treatment is rarely necessary, but if you have cause for concern please contact the surgery.

- **Diarrhoea and/or vomiting:** providing your pet is not passing blood and does not appear ill, most onsets of diarrhoea or vomiting can be treated successfully at home. If your pet is ill, make an appointment to see your vet. Starve from all foods for twenty-four hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting; offer small amounts of cooled boiled water only. (**Do not** starve rabbits, small furies or birds.) Then offer a light diet of white fish, chicken breast, rice, scrambled egg (made without butter or milk) or Hill's i/d diet (available at Reception). When the pet has returned to 100% normal, gradually reintroduce the usual diet. If the diarrhoea or vomiting persists for more than twenty-four hours, make an appointment to see a vet and bring a fresh sample of faeces with you if your pet has diarrhoea.
- **Whelping/kittening:** leave the bitch or queen in a quiet, dark, warm room. The dam should be examined if:
  - She has a greenish/red-brownish discharge but no puppy/kitten is born within two to four hours.
  - Foetal fluid was passed more than two to three hours ago but nothing more has happened.
  - The dam has had weak, irregular straining for more than two to four hours.
  - The dam has had strong, regular straining for more than twenty to thirty minutes without a puppy/kitten being born.
- **Oil, creosote and paint:** if your pet has got some oil, creosote or paint on its fur, it must not lick it off. These are toxic substances and can cause internal damage. Areas can either be shaved or bathed in Swarfga, dishwashing liquid or LOC. Thorough rinsing and drying are necessary. Do not, even at this stage, let your pet lick the area. If necessary, make an Elizabethan collar to prevent this (as described later). Due to the nature of some of the chemicals it is advisable to contact the surgery for further advice.

### Tips for dogs:

- **Bloat:** any sudden onset of the stomach rapidly enlarging (usually in larger breeds) needs immediate veterinary attention.
- **Shaking head:** check your dog's ears daily as part of your grooming routine. Soreness or odour requires treatment. A sudden onset of head shaking after walking through grassy areas in the summer may indicate penetration by a grass seed. A few drops of olive oil or liquid paraffin will soften this until veterinary attention is sought. It is also very important to check the dog's paws for grass seeds that may be trapped in the fur or between the toes.

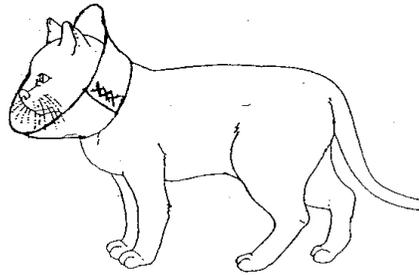
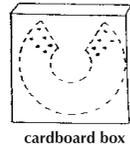
### Tips for cats:

- **Abscesses:** if a large swelling has burst, clean it with warm salt water (one teaspoon of salt in one pint of water). Make an appointment to see a vet as antibiotics are likely to be needed.

### Tips for rabbits:

- **Flystrike:** remove as many maggots and eggs as possible and seek veterinary attention. Maggots release a toxic substance while they feed, so the rabbit could become very ill very quickly. Products are available from reception to help prevent flystrike. Regular cleaning of their hutches will also help.

### How to make an Elizabethan collar:



Secure collar at the side with a shoelace

### First Aid Kits

First Aid Kits can be ordered and purchased from reception, prices starting from £35.00.



### Quick Reference Guide



### Endell Veterinary Group

49 Endless Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3UH

Tel: 01722-333291 Fax: 01722-338778

[www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.endellveterinarygroup.co.uk)