

2019 Canine Basic First Aid Study Guide

When a dog is in pain and frightened, you could get bitten. It is best to muzzle the dog,

Constructing an emergency muzzle with panty hose, a cotton bandage (gauze strip), a necktie or a rope is not difficult. Begin by tying a loose knot in the middle of the material leaving a large loop. Then slip the loop over the dog's snout and tighten the knot over the bridge of the nose. Bring the ends down under the chin, tie a knot there, and bring the ends around back of the ears. Finish by securely tying a bow behind the ears. The muzzle will not interfere with breathing if tied in this manner and can be released quickly by loosening the bow and pulling the material straight from the nose.

Transporting the dog – Picking the dog up and carrying him can cause further injuries.

- Towels or blankets can be used as stretchers
- Place the animal on a hard surface (plywood etc) to move him.
- Small dogs can be placed in a box.

Bleeding Nail care

Take soap bar and push into nail or apply flour, cinnamon, or corn starch to the area with firm pressure for five minutes

Nosebleed care

Apply ice pack wrapped in cloth to the nose and apply steady pressure on bleeding nostril. Call vet if bleeding continues

Pad Wounds care

Pads contain many blood vessels that cause them to bleed heavily. Remove foreign objects and wash area with saline. Bandage area using nonstick pad over wound and wrap foot with gauze starting with toes working the gauze up the leg. Doggie boots also help protect the pads.

CHERRY EYE

All dogs have a tear gland on the inner surface of their third eyelid (the haw). Occasionally, the gland flips up and protrudes from the corner of the eye. The red, smooth, cherry-like lump doesn't seem to bother most dogs in the least, but can be extremely alarming for owners, Most cases of cherry eye need surgery to either replace or remove the gland.

Dehydration Increased thirst, dry gums, eyes sunken, tired or sleepy, decreased urine output, urine is low volume and more yellowish than normal, headache, decreased skin elasticity, dizziness. **Treatment** Attempt to give small amounts of water frequently, give ice cubes, call vet and have dog assessed for intravenous fluids.

HIP DYSPASIA Is a congenital defect with potential environment and nutritional influences. This is the leading cause of subluxation (partial dislocation) or malfunction in the hip joint. Symptoms, dog feels pain when you feel or touch the area, Dislocated hind leg is shorter or longer than the other leg, Foot on the dislocated leg does not reach the ground when the animal stands.

Check the dog's ABC's, Check for shock, bring to veterinarian. Lastly, hip dysplasia is an inherited disease, so dogs with a confirmed hip dysplasia should never be used for breeding.

SKIN The skin is the largest organ in the dog's body, it protects the organs and tissues from invasion, changing temperatures and dehydration.

MOUCOUS MEMBRANE COLOR

The dog's mucous membranes (gums and inner eyelids) color of your dog can help you determine if enough oxygen and blood are flowing to all of his tissues. To check the color, lift your dog's upper or lower lip and observe the color of his gums or inner lip. It should be pink. If your dog's mucous membranes are blue, pale, yellow, cherry red, white, brick red or brown, this is an emergency. Call the veterinarian immediately

CAPILLARY REFILL Observing how soon the gums or inner lips return to their normal pink color after you press on them is a quick way to know if your dog's blood circulation is normal.

EXTERNAL PARASITES

Chiggers Small reddish orange mites about the size of a pinhead (resembling paprika) found on the legs, heads, and abdomen of dogs. Wash dog with mild shampoo and contact vet for antihistamine .

Fleas Small, wingless insects with elongated back legs which allow them to jump onto a passing animals host. Fleas feed on blood of numerous animal species including humans. Intense scratching which may cause hair loss, redness or raised red bumps on the skin. Topical flea medication, oral flea medication, flea collars, sprays, dips, shampoos, and powders.

Flea Dirt Feces that a female flea deposits when laying eggs. If flea dirt is sprayed with water, it will turn red

4 Flea development

Stages eggs, larvae, pupae, and adult

Worms INTERNAL PARASITES

Signs of Worms Anemia (Pale gum color), bloating, diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, loss of appetite, or animal that is hungry all the time but not gaining weight, poor looking coat

Roundworms Intestinal worms which look like pieces of spaghetti.
This disease is caused by actual worms inhabiting the chambers of the heart. They gain entry to the dog's circulatory system through the bite of a carrier mosquito.

Heartworms Since the worms may grow up to 12 inches long, they both physically obstruct blood flow and damage the pulmonary arteries, making it hard to pump blood through the lungs. It can be treated with arsenic-containing drugs to eradicate the adult worms followed by other drugs to kill immature worms. It is better to prevent heartworm infestation by giving preventative medications.

Hookworm Intestinal worms that live in the digestive system of your **dog**. The **hookworm** attaches to the lining of the intestinal wall and feeds on your **dog's** blood that can lead to significant blood loss

Whipworm **Whipworms** are intestinal parasites that are about 1/4 inch long. They live in the cecum and colon (large intestine) of **dogs** where they cause severe irritation to the lining of those organs. **Whipworm** infection results in watery, bloody diarrhea, weight loss, and general debilitation.

Tapeworm A round or flat small white worm that look like moving pieces of rice seen around the dog's anus or in stool. When an animal bites an itch or eats fleas that harbor the tapeworm larvae. Practice flea control, deworm dog, clean animal bedding.

Ringworm Is not a squirming parasite but rather a fungal infection of the skin. The lesions appear as a circular, hairless patches of scaly skin. To diagnose ringworm, a culture may be taken from a sample of crust and hair. Proper diagnosis and treatment is especially important since ringworm can spread to people.

EXTERNAL PARASITE

Mites Tiny 8-legged critters similar to spiders. Signs of crusty ear tips, hair loss, oozing sores or lesions, pin point bite marks, severe itching, small reddish pustules, yellow crust on skin

3 kinds of Mange Demodectic, Cheyletiella, and Sarcopic

Demodectic Mange also known as red mange, follicular mange, or puppy mange
Demodectic mange is transferred from mother to offspring in the first few days of life. Demodex Canis is the mite responsible carrying demodectic mange

Cheyletiella Mange This mange is caused by a reddish mite that can be seen with a magnifying glass. Also, known as walking dandruff

Sarcopic Mange Known as canine scabies; These microscopic mites burrow into the skin of dogs or puppies where they lay eggs. Newly hatched mites continue tunneling under the skin. These mites can survive for several days off the host so dogs can become infected without coming into direct contact with infected dog. Sarcoptes Scabiei is the parasite that causes sarcoptic mange

Otodectes Cynotis A mite that takes up residence in the animal's ear canal and severe itching

EXTERNAL PARASITE

Ticks

Blood-sucking parasites responsible for the transmission of several diseases to dogs, cats, and humans. Lyme, Ehrlichia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Babesiosis. A fever, rash, lameness, joint pain, swelling in the joints, swollen lymph nodes, lethargy, and loss of appetite, paralysis, anemia.

Lyme Disease

Also called borreliosis; is an infectious, tick-borne disease. Ticks must be attached to the host for 24- 48 hours before it transmits Lyme Disease. 85% of all cases in the US are located on the east coast. Lyme Disease is caused by a bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*.
TREATMENT: antibiotics

Ehrlichia

An infectious bacteria commonly spread by ticks which affects the white blood cells.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

One of the most commonly known tick-borne diseases To affect dogs. Rickettsia rickettsii is the organism responsible for Rocky Mountain spotted fever that lives parasitically in ticks and is transmitted by bite to vertebrate hosts.

Babesiosis

An illness caused by microscopic parasites that infect red blood cells and are spread by certain ticks

Tick Prevention

Using tick prevention products, staying out of high grass, checking dog's coats, inspect feet and in between toes, and checking outside and inside ears regularly for ticks

Tick Removal

1. Put on non-latex gloves
2. Place a small amount of tick spray on a gauze and hold gauze for 30-60 seconds where tick has attached
Alcohol, mineral oil, or petroleum jelly can be used instead of tick spray
3. When tick starts to back out, grasp the tick close to the dog's skin and pull straight out.
4. Save tick in a plastic bag for vet to identify.
5. Apply disinfectant such as alcohol or antibiotic cream to the area.

Poisoning

Accidental ingestion, animal abuse, eating foods that are toxic to dogs, eating garbage, improper medication

Toxins to Dogs

Antifreeze, drugs, medications, heavy metals, household chemicals, foods (such as chocolate, onions, moldy cheese, raisins, grapes), inhaled toxins, many plants. Non-prescription drugs (such as Tylenol, aspirin, ibuprofen, and cold remedies), rat or mouse poisons, mothballs.

Do not induce vomiting with the ingestion of antifreeze

Poison Control # 888-426-4435

Induce Vomiting Give 3% hydrogen peroxide orally by mixing (1 teaspoon / 10 pounds so if dog weighing 30 pounds = 3 teaspoons hydrogen peroxide)
NEVER GIVE DOG SYRUP OF IPECAC

Puncture Wound A deep **wound** that occurs due to something sharp and pointed, such as a nail. The opening on the skin is small, and the **puncture wound** may not bleed much. **Puncture wounds** can easily become infected so need medical attention.

Puppy Strangles Also known as Juvenile Cellulitis
A genetic immune disorder that occurs between the ages of 3 weeks to 4 months where the lymph nodes under the jaw or chin become enlarged and look as though they are strangling the puppy.

Rectal Prolapse A sausage-shaped mass which pushes out of the anus due to dog straining to defecate. **THIS IS AN EMERGENCY WHICH NEED IMMEDIATE VETERINARY ATTENTION**

Seizures Common neurological problem seen in dogs which occur when the cerebral cortex, part of the brain, functions abnormally resulting in the dog to convulse, twitch, and lose consciousness. **Seizures** can be caused by head injuries, brain tumors, lead poisoning, maldevelopment of the brain, genetic and infectious illnesses, and fevers.

Causes Seizures Frequently caused by epilepsy, although they may be due to viral, bacterial, or fungal infections, as well as brain tumors or head trauma.

Seizure Safety

1. Make sure dog is in a safe place
2. Record length of seizures
3. keep log of seizure (date, time of day, length)
4. Keep hands away from dog's mouth. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO HOLD TONGUE**
5. Do not disturb dog
6. Call veterinarian if first seizure or if seizure lasts more than 2 minutes or has a cluster of seizures.

HOT SPOTS They are focal skin infections that, although not associated with burns, actually feel warm to the touch. Inflamed areas of the skin caused by the dog licking, biting or scratching the skin too much. Typically, the lesions start as red or pink bald patches and may end up bleeding and infected. Your dog may be creating a hot spot because it is bored. Provide toys, hugs and attention.

Treat by shaving area, clean the area with warm water, apply a topical ointment (triple antibiotic cream), use an Elizabethian collar to keep the dog from biting area, If these don't work see a Veterinarian

Dehydration Increased thirst, dry mouth, tired or sleepy, decreased urine output, urine is low volume and more yellowish than normal, headache, dry skin, dizziness. Treatment Attempt to give small amounts of water frequently, give ice cubes, call vet and have dog assessed for intravenous fluids

HEATSTROKE or **HYPERTHERMIA** **When a dog severely overheats.** May occur when dogs are left in cars, etc. on hot days.

Sign of HEATSTROKE / HYPERTHERMIA

- Rapid breathing, shallow breath's,excessive panting.
- Increase heart rate
- High body temperature (above 104 degrees)
- Collapse
- Mucous membrane color is redder than normal.
- Salivation
- Can not sweat

Treatment for HEATSTROKE/HYPERTHERMIA

- Cool down as quickly as possible.
- Spray with cool water, place ice around the belly/ head/neck.
- Stop cooling him when the temperature reaches 103 degrees.
- Rub isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol 70% on dogs pads to help cool him. (It can be toxic to dogs if ingested.)
- Call veterinarian.

HYPOTHERMIA/ DANGEROUS DROP IN BODY TEMPERATURE

Consequences of extreme **hypothermia** include neurological problems (including coma), heart problems, kidney failure, slow or no breathing and frostbite.

- Signs of HYPOTHERMIA**
- Body Temperature below 95% F
 - Decreased heart rate
 - Pale or blue mucous membranes
 - Pupils may be dilated
 - Shivering
 - Stupor, unconsciousness or coma
 - Weak pulse

HYPERGLYCEMIA Is when the blood sugar level is too high.
One of the most common causes is *diabetes mellitus*. Which is the abnormal metabolism of insulin. **SYMPTONS** - increased appetite, increased thirst, increased urination, and weight loss.

HYPOGLYCEMIA Occurs when the blood sugar level is too low. The most common cause is insulin overdose. **Symptoms** are coma or unconsciousness; disorientation; seizures; shaking; weakness; wobbly, drunken-looking gait.

- What to do
- Check Dog's ABC's
 - Rub corn syrup on the gums, but do not force into mouth.
 - Take dog to the Veterinary hospital immediately.

KENNEL COUGH Causes a very dramatic, dry cough and is very contagious. It readily spreads from one dog to another dog. Often, it will resolve on its own; however, treatment by a veterinarian may be necessary in severe cases. Carriers are often asymptomatic. Ask for vaccination if your dog is going to be staying with other dogs.

SHOCK Shock is the body's response to a change in blood flow and oxygen to the internal organs and tissues. It is characterized by collapse of the cardiovascular system. Signs of shock include a rapid, weak heartbeat, dilated pupils, pale gums, and overall weakness; shock demands immediate attention.

Septic Shock Is a life-threatening condition that happens when blood pressure drops to a dangerously low level after an infection

- Vomiting Causes**
- Bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection
 - Change in diet
 - Eating something that upsets stomach
 - Eating something that cannot pass through the tract
 - Motion sickness
 - Many illnesses

Reverse Sneezing this episodic behavior happens when the dog inhales and has a reverse snort. Several snorts in a row may look dramatic but do not pose any risk to the dog's health. This may be the result of Post Nasal Drip. No need to call a vet unless the dog seems to be in respiratory distress.

Post Nasal Drip also termed upper airway cough syndrome occurs when excessive mucus is produced and accumulates in the throat or back of the nose

Sepsis Is a potentially life-threatening complication of an infection which occurs when chemicals released into the bloodstream to fight the infection trigger inflammatory responses throughout the body.

DIARRHEA Usually signs of problems with the digestive system.

- Dehydration from vomiting or diarrhea can be fatal.
- Make sure the dog has plenty of water. If the vomiting or diarrhea persists 12 hours or more, call your vet.

VOMITING It is best to consult your veterinarian about any specific treatment for poisoning.

Antifreeze, a potent poison thought to taste sweet, is very attractive to animals. If you suspect that your dog has sampled some of this liquid, immediately seek veterinary help. There are no measures to take at home. Know What, how much, low long ago the ingestion occurred.

- Vomiting Causes**
- Bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection
 - Change in diet
 - Eating something that upsets stomach
 - Eating something that cannot pass through the tract
 - Motion sickness
 - Many illnesses

WHAT IS NORMAL

Become familiar with what is normal with YOUR DOG
Observe how your dog, breathes, eats, drinks, walks, urinates and defecates so you might be sensitive with problem signals.

CPR

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is used to treat a dog that is not breathing and has no heart beat or pulse. It consists of rescue breaths and chest compressions

ABC's Of CPR

Airway
Breathing
Circulation

Normal Heart Rate

Puppy (Under 1 year)	120-160 beats per minute
Small dog (30 pounds or less)	100-140 beats per minute
Medium dog (over 30 pounds)	60-100 beats per minute

Normal Breathing Rate

10-30 breaths per minute
Up to 200 pants per minute (mouth open and tongue out)

Normal Temperature

100° F – 102.5° F
A temperature under 100° F or greater than 104° F is an emergency and advised to call veterinarian

Information from **The Complete Dog Book for Kids** and **American Red Cross Book Dog First Aid, Safety series, vol 2, AKC Dog Care and Training, 2nd edition, Ohio Resource Handbook** with Basic First Aid.