



Animal Emergency Care

COMPLIMENTS OF:
Fox Valley Animal Referral Center
Green Bay Animal Referral Center



4706 New Horizons Blvd.
Appleton, WI 54914
920.993.9193
www.fvarc.com

OPEN 24 HOURS EVERY DAY



2141 Lime Kiln Road
Green Bay, WI 54311
920.494.9400
www.gbarcwi.com

OPEN 24 HOURS ON
WEEKENDS & ALL HOLIDAYS
6 PM TO 8 AM MONDAY – FRIDAY



Intent and Use of This Booklet

This booklet is intended to help you deal with emergency situations that may arise with your pet when you are unable to seek professional help. It is NOT intended to replace professional veterinary care. The information that we have provided will help you to stabilize your pet so you may take immediate action and seek help at your veterinarian for an exam and further treatment. The best way to manage an emergency is to have contact information readily available as well as the contact information for the closest veterinary emergency hospital. There is a page provided in the back of this booklet for you to record this information.

Signs That Your Pet Needs Immediate Medical Attention

- Difficulty breathing
- Bleeding from nose, mouth or anus
- Vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours
- Depression, confusion or seizures
- Slow or fast heartbeat
- Appetite changes
- Anorexia (2 days of not eating for a dog, 24 hours for a cat)
- Temperature of 103° F or higher
- Tender or bloated belly
- Lump you can feel
- Animal bite
- Sunburn that causes blistered or broken skin
- Allergic reaction to a bug bite or bee sting
- Sudden changes in behavior: aggression, anxiety, accidents in the house, etc.

Remember, you can never be too safe. If you are concerned about your pet for any reason, please seek medical advice by contacting your primary care veterinarian or the nearest veterinary emergency hospital.



Our Mission

To respect
life

To value
each life
we touch

To strengthen
the human-
animal bond

To strive
for excellence
in veterinary
health care

To serve
our clients
and our
colleagues
with skill
and compassion

To care





EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Fox Valley Animal Referral Center 920.993.9193

4706 New Horizons Blvd
Appleton WI 54914
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2141 Lime Kiln Road
Green Bay, WI 54311
www.gbarcwi.com

Animal Poison Control Center 1 888.426.4435

Medications kept in our home:

Rx _____ Dose _____

Rx _____ Dose _____

Rx _____ Dose _____

Rx _____ Dose _____

Rx _____ Dose _____

Referring Veterinarian Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

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*Emergency and specialty hospital locations and
contact information inside and on the back cover.*

Pet Emergencies

Abdominal Pain

Signs: Whining, listlessness, restlessness, lethargic, arching his/her back, unable to get comfortable, vomiting, diarrhea, bloated or extended abdomen, straining to defecate. "BLOAT" is a commonly used term when describing abdominal pain and distension.

Action: Do not give your pet food or water. This may induce vomiting or make the condition worse. Abdominal pain can be very serious and is often life threatening if not addressed. Limit your pet's activity and seek a veterinary professional as soon as possible. *If your animal is pregnant and experiencing difficulty giving birth you must seek veterinary care immediately.*

Allergic Reactions

Signs: Fever, vomiting, diarrhea, hives, scratching, chewing at feet, swollen face or puffiness around the eyes, trouble breathing.

Action: Call a veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs. Allergic reactions are sometimes immediate but can occur hours later. Allergic reactions should be treated as soon as possible to prevent your pet from going into shock. A veterinary exam needs to be performed on your pet, even if the reaction symptoms "get better". Allergic reactions can result from a variety of causes including insect bites or stings, food reactions, and environmental issues.

Bite Wounds

Action: Always approach the animal slowly and remain calm. Injured animals will often "strike out" and bite when they are in pain. Muzzle your pet or have someone restrain their head before examining their wounds. Examine the entire animal for bleeding, lacerations, or signs of pain. Multiple wounds may be present but hard to locate under thick hair and fur. Bite wounds that appear to be superficial can cause extensive internal injuries; an example would be a snake or spider bite. Seek veterinary care immediately. Bite wounds need to be flushed extensively and sutured to prevent infection. Antibiotics will be required as well. If you cannot quickly reach help, flush out the wound extensively with saline solution. Wrap large wounds with a non-clinging bandage material. Do not use tape or tourniquets to stop bleeding. Use firm pressure if needed.

Pet Information



1. Pet's Name _____ ☐ Cat ☐ Dog ☐ Other

Breed _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Spayed ☐ Neutered Color _____ Age _____

Allergies _____

My Pet's Medications _____

Known Drug Reactions _____

2. Pet's Name _____ ☐ Cat ☐ Dog ☐ Other

Breed _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Spayed ☐ Neutered Color _____ Age _____

Allergies _____

My Pet's Medications _____

Known Drug Reactions _____

3. Pet's Name _____ ☐ Cat ☐ Dog ☐ Other

Breed _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Spayed ☐ Neutered Color _____ Age _____

Allergies _____

My Pet's Medications _____

Known Drug Reactions _____

Owner's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Veterinarian's Name _____ Phone _____

First Aid Kit for Pets

SUGGESTED TOOLS:

- ☐ Rectal thermometer
- ☐ Pen light or small flashlight
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Fine tooth tweezers
- ☐ Non toothed tweezers
- ☐ Needle nose pliers
- ☐ Small wire snips
- ☐ Sewing needle or skin stapler

ANTI-INFECTIVE:

- ☐ Iodine scrub and or chlorohexidine solution
- ☐ Triple antibiotic cream or ointment
- ☐ 70% alcohol
- ☐ 3% hydrogen peroxide
- ☐ Disposable rubber gloves

POISONING ANTIDOTES:

- ☐ 3% hydrogen peroxide
- ☐ Activated charcoal

BANDAGING MATERIALS:

- ☐ Non stick wound pads (or a handkerchief)
- ☐ Gauze pads
- ☐ 1-2" roll gauze
- ☐ Roll cotton (disposable diapers would work)
- ☐ 1-2" adhesive tape
- ☐ 2-3" elastic bandage

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ☐ Cotton tipped swabs
- ☐ Styptic powder
- ☐ Toenail trimmer
- ☐ New skin
- ☐ 60 cc syringe for flushing wounds
- ☐ Bottled water or saline to use as flush
- ☐ Muzzle
- ☐ Petroleum jelly
- ☐ Phone numbers for your veterinarian and for the nearest veterinary emergency hospital



Burns

Action: Burns can occur in many ways. Exposure or ingestion to chemicals, electrical and thermal (heat) burns, and sunburn are the most common. If you are unable to seek medical attention immediately, flush the area of the burn with cool water for 5 minutes. After flushing, apply a cool compress to the burn area. Never apply an ice pack to the skin. You may wrap an ice pack in a towel or a t-shirt then apply to the skin. Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Burns need to be addressed immediately and can be life threatening.

Cardiac Emergencies

Signs: Collapse, weakness, bluish or gray gum color, rapid/slow heart rate, increased respiratory rate or respiratory distress

Action: Call a veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs. Cardiac emergencies are most often life threatening. Limit your pet's activity and carry them if possible, to the car for transport to your veterinarian or to the nearest emergency animal hospital. If your pet stops breathing or loses consciousness, you may begin to perform CPR as discussed later in this booklet.

Cold Emergencies (Hypothermia/Frostbite)

Signs: Shivering, lethargy, weakness, inability to use limbs.

Action: If your pet is outdoors, bring them inside. Take a "baseline" temperature by using only an approved medical rectal thermometer. Normal temperature should be 100-102.5 degrees. NEVER use an electric heating pad or blanket. Wrap your pet in a warm and dry blanket, towel, or clothing. Do not "rub" your pet with any material, if there is damaged tissue, you may make any frostbit skin worse. Try to raise your pet's body temperature slowly. You may use warm water bottles wrapped in towels to raise your pet's body temperature, avoid all direct skin contact. If an area of skin is discolored (bluish or pale), this body part or skin may have been frozen and is showing signs of frostbite. Transport your animal to the nearest animal emergency hospital.



Diarrhea

Action: Diarrhea may be due to stress or change in your pet's diet. It may also be a symptom of something more serious such as disease or illness. Make sure that your pet continues to drink water. If diarrhea is persistent for more than 24 hours, seek veterinary care. If your pet is showing signs of illness such as vomiting, lethargy, or weakness, do not wait. Seek veterinary care immediately.

Ear Emergencies

Signs: Scratching at ears, shaking head, whining, head tilt, swollen/puffy earflap, strange odor or discharge from ear(s).

Action: Muzzle your pet or ask someone to restrain your pet while you are looking in their ears. Look for signs of redness, swelling of the ear flap, discharge, or unusual odor. Look for any obvious foreign material such as plants, grass, or rocks. If possible, pull it out with a piece of gauze. Using your fingers may lodge it further into the ear canal. If your pet still seems bothered by an ear problem or has frequent ear infections, seek veterinary care. You may be referred to a specialist to look for underlying causes of ear problems such as allergies.

Eye Emergencies

Signs: Squinting, discharge or tearing, redness, swelling, bleeding, difference in pupil size, sensitive to light

Action: If you notice an obvious laceration or foreign object in or around the eye, seek veterinary care immediately. DO NOT attempt to bandage the laceration or remove the object. If your pet was exposed to a chemical irritant, debris, or dirt, you may flush the eyes out with a sterile saline solution prior to seeking veterinary care. Eye injuries and infections can become worse quickly. An immediate diagnosis and treatment is critical to preserve your pet's eyesight.

Toxins and common household items

There are several commonly found household items and foods that are toxic to pets. Make certain that these items are not accessible to your pet.

Antifreeze (ethylene glycol): Pets love the sweet smell and taste of antifreeze. Ingestion of small amounts can be fatal and will cause neurological and kidney damage. Signs of poisoning include staggering, lethargy, excessive drinking, and seizures.

Slug/Snail baits: Signs include nervousness, hyper excitability, drooling, tremors, rapid heart rate, and seizures.

Chocolate: Milk chocolate will cause GI upset, however, bittersweet or bakers chocolate is much more toxic and will cause nervous stimulation, tremors, rapid heart rate, and seizures.

Rodent poison: Rodent poison causes bleeding and severe neurological damage. Keep these items out of reach of your pet.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol): Causes red blood cell and liver damage. It is especially toxic to cats.

Plants: There are many plants that are toxic to pets. Some may cause mild GI upset and others can cause severe organ damage. Some of the common plants that are toxic to pets include: Easter lily, tiger lily, rhododendron, dumbcane, dieffenbachia, mistletoe, oleander, castor beans, rhubarb, iris, larkspur. Do not let your pet near fertilizer or plant food as well.

Food: The following foods can be poisonous to your pets and should be kept out of their reach: alcohol, broccoli, coffee, tea, garlic, grapes, mushrooms, moldy foods, nuts, onions, pear or apple seeds, pits of plums, peaches, and apricots, raisins, tomato leaves and stems, salt, and yeast.

Garbage: Keep secure lids on trashcans. Raw or rancid food can cause serious food poisoning. Also, your pet can choke or get strangled by plastic garbage bags. Chemicals, cleaning supplies, art supplies, and dirty rags can often be poisonous to pets.



Traveling with your pet

Have your pet examined by your veterinarian prior to traveling to make certain that they are physically able to handle the trip and the associated stress.

Familiarize yourself with any pet-related restrictions or requirements imposed by the airlines, hotels, and destination sites prior to traveling. A health certificate will be required when using public transportation. Quarantines may be required when traveling to other countries.

Remember to pack your pet's food and any medications as well as supplies such as leashes, water and food dish, bedding, litter, etc.

Be sure that your pet wears their identification tags as well as rabies tag at all times. Permanent identification microchips are also available and recommended. Carry a photo of your pet with you in case they become lost. Take this emergency booklet, a first aid kit, and the number for a veterinary emergency clinic in the area where you will be traveling.

Do not let your dog stick his head out the window if traveling by car. Flying debris can damage their eyes. Never leave the car window low or the door ajar when driving with your pet. Never transport your dog in the back of an open pick-up truck. Never leave your pet in an unattended parked car, especially on a warm day when heat stroke can occur.

When you arrive at your destination, evaluate your pet for injury or illness.

Leaving your pet at home alone

If you are using a pet sitter while you are away, be certain to leave a phone number where you can be reached as well as the phone number of your veterinarian and the phone number for your local emergency clinic. Make sure that your pet sitter is aware of any health issues or medications your pet is on. Discuss and plan for any financial limitations with the sitter in case you are not available if an emergency occurs.

Fractures

Signs: Pain, not using limb, limb looks bent or swollen, whining, hiding, dragging or scooting across floor, unable to walk. Obvious fracture, bone protruding.

Action: Immediate veterinary care is needed. Your pet will be in pain, so muzzle your pet before moving them. If there is excessive bleeding, apply pressure with a towel, t-shirt, or other available material while trying not to move the limb. Do not pull on the limb in an attempt to align the fracture. Stabilize the limb as best you can using a stiff item such as cardboard, rolled newspaper, a yardstick, etc. Do not give any pain medication unless instructed to do so by a veterinarian.

Heat Emergencies (Hyperthermia) & Dehydration

Signs: Excessive panting or salivation, lethargic, unable to stand, lack of coordination, vomiting, diarrhea, red gums

Action: Move your pet to a cool area as soon as possible. Keep them calm. If water is nearby, encourage them to stand or lay down in cool water. Do not give them a cold bath. Put small amount of water on the tongue or offer them ice cubes. You may cover them with wet towels and apply cool compresses between their legs. If your pet does not respond to this therapy and is depressed, anxious, is having difficulty breathing, seek veterinary care immediately. Heat stroke and dehydration can lead to shock and organ damage and organ failure. Normal temperature for a dog is 100–102 degrees Fahrenheit.

Insect Bites & Tick Removal

Action: Animals vary in their reactions to insect bites and stings. Their response can be mild to severe. Check for any remaining stinger or insects. Remove with tweezers and wash the area with a mild soap and water. Monitor your pet closely for any signs of an allergic reaction. If you find a tick on your pet, place a small amount of rubbing alcohol on a cotton ball and hold it over the tick for 30–60 seconds. The tick should “back out,” allowing you to grab it with tweezers and dispose of the tick.



Lacerations

Action: Approach your pet slowly and remain calm. Muzzle your pet or have someone restrain your pet. Examine your pet's entire body for bleeding, lacerations, and signs of pain. Multiple lacerations can be hard to find under the hair and fur. Flush each laceration with sterile saline solutions. Large lacerations can be bandaged to control bleeding until you can seek veterinary help. Do not use a tourniquet to stop bleeding. Use firm pressure on the wound. Seek veterinary care as soon as possible, lacerations are worse "under the surface" where you cannot see them and often need to be sutured and antibiotics may be started to prevent infections.

Nails

Action: If your dog or cat tears their nail or if you cut it too short while grooming, an easy home remedy is cornstarch. Apply pressure to the nail bed to temporarily stop the bleeding. Then, using a Q-tip or a gauze pad, apply or pack the nail with cornstarch. You may also use commercial products such as Kwik Stop or a styptic stick.

Neurologic Emergencies

Signs: Inability to use limbs, unable to stand, circling, seizures, head tilt, abnormal behavior, dragging limb(s), "knuckling"

Action: Seek veterinary help as soon as possible. Neurologic disease is difficult to treat and is very serious. If your pet is unable to walk, carry them to the car. If they are too large to carry, use a towel under the abdomen to support the hind end.

How to approach an injured or sick animal

Safety first, and by that we mean your safety. You will be unable to help your pet if you become injured in the process. Remain calm and think about your actions before you act upon your instincts to rush in to help.

Approach your sick or injured pet slowly while talking in a calm, soothing voice. If you are alone and without any assistance, always muzzle your pet when they are in pain or before moving. If possible, have someone record the nature of the emergency as quickly as possible. Write down your observations so you may recall your findings when speaking with your veterinarian. Use the information provided in this booklet to help you stabilize and transport your pet to your veterinarian or the closest animal emergency hospital.

Household Medications

DO NOT give your pet any medications (Advil, Tylenol, aspirin, benedryl, etc.) without checking with your veterinarian first. Many human medications are toxic to animals and could result in an adverse reaction or death.

- Keep all vials of medications at a height that is not accessible to your pet.
- Keep the top of all vials closed when not in use to prevent spilling.
- When handling your medications, do so over a counter, table, or sink, so if a pill falls, your dogs or cats don't have access to them.
- Know the names and strengths of medications that you are taking. Write this information in the space provided on page 16 under the Animal Poison Control Center phone number.
- If your pet ingests medications, do not hesitate. This can cause significant stress to your pet, and most important, time is lost by allowing the medications to be absorbed.

You can talk directly to a board certified toxicologist by calling the Animal Poison Control Center at **1 888 426 4435** with any concerns. The APCC maintains a database of known effects on toxic doses of human medications. A service fee will be charged, so have your credit card number available. Do not attempt to induce vomiting at home unless advised to do so by a veterinarian. You may be advised to take action at home or go directly to one of our emergency facilities closest to you.



Artificial Respiration

The information provided in this booklet is meant to be used only as a general guide and educational tool for the care of your pet. In the case of an emergency, a veterinarian should always be consulted.

Check the airway for any foreign objects and then gently hold the muzzle together sealing the mouth closed with your hands. Forcefully blow air into the animal's nose. Give four to five rapid breaths and then check to see if your pet begins to breath with no assistance. If not, repeat until you reach a veterinary hospital.

Performing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)

It is important to remain calm when attempting to perform CPR. There are many courses available that will teach a "hands on" course in animal CPR. Contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross to see if a course is offered in your area.

Do not assume that there is no heartbeat or pulse because your pet is not breathing. Do not start chest compressions before checking for a heartbeat. If your pet is conscious and responds to you, their heart is beating.

CPR in a small dog or cat: Lay your pet down on its right side with their chest facing you. Place one palm over the ribs at the point where the elbow touches the chest. Place your other hand underneath the right side. With your elbows softly locked, compress the chest ½–1 inches. If working alone, perform 5 chest compressions for each breath. Continue for 3 cycles (5 compressions, 1 breath) then check for a pulse.

CPR in a medium to large dog: Stand or kneel with your pet's chest towards you. Extend your arms at the elbows and cup your hands. At the point where the left elbow sits when pulled back to the chest, compress the chest 1–3 inches. Perform 5 chest compressions for each breath for 5 cycles then check for a pulse.

Poisonings

- Signs:** Disorientation, vomiting, seizures, weakness, retching, excessive salivation, whining
- Action:** Call your veterinarian immediately. If the source of poisoning is known, have the container with you when you call. You will need the information that is on the packaging to determine the appropriate treatment. You may be advised to call Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) at 1 888 426 4435. If the source of poisoning is unknown, seek veterinary assistance immediately. Anti-toxin treatment should be started as soon as possible to minimize absorption of the poison. The phone numbers for your area emergency clinic as well as the number for APCC is located in the back of this book for quick reference.

Respiratory Emergencies

- Signs:** Collapse, weakness, bluish or gray gum color, labored, rapid, or shallow breathing
- Action:** Seek veterinary care immediately. Difficulty breathing can result from heart failure, lung disease, and blockage of the airway, allergic reaction, or trauma. All of these emergencies are life threatening. You can look in your pet's mouth to see if there is a foreign object obstructing the airway, only try to remove the object if it is completely stopping your pet from breathing. Use tweezers or pliers to remove the item. If your pet is still passing some air (wheezing), do not attempt to remove the item and get them to your veterinarian as soon as possible. By attempting to remove the item, you may push it farther into the airway.

Seizures

- Signs:** Shaking, tremors, strange facial movements, unable to stand, paddling, loss of urinary and bowel control
- Action:** Do not attempt to restrain your pet during a seizure. Move any objects away that may cause injury to your pet. Take note of the duration of the seizure and how many seizures (if more than one) your pet is having. Call your veterinarian immediately and seek assistance.



Skunk Exposure & Recipe

Signs: Foul smell and burning eyes

Action: Wear eye and hand protection when bathing your pet. In a bucket mix together:

- 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- ¼ cup baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of dishwashing liquid

The solution will fizz once mixed. Wash your pet with the solution and use a soft brush to get lather into the coat and on the skin. Leave on the skin for 10 minutes. Rinse your pet completely. Repeat as necessary.

Urinary Emergencies

Signs: Frequent urination or straining to urinate. Blood in urine, difficulty urinating, vomiting

Action: Animals can develop urinary blockage and infections. Once you see signs of a problem, call your veterinarian and take your pet in as soon as possible. The problem has most likely been going on longer than you realized. Do not wait to see if your pet will improve. Blockage can lead to serious problems or even death.

Vomiting

Signs: Look for signs of foreign material or strange food in the vomit. Call your veterinarian or emergency clinic and tell them what your pet had eaten or what foreign objects you have found in the vomit. You may be advised to “rest the stomach” for 4–6 hours by offering no food or water. You may then try small amounts of water and bland food every two hours. If there is no further vomiting, you can return your pet to a normal diet. If the vomiting persists or your pet has non-productive vomiting (retching), or abdominal distension, seek veterinary help immediately.

It is important to know what is “normal” so you will recognize what is NOT normal in an emergency situation.

Heart Rate or Pulse: The heartbeat of a dog or cat can be felt at or about the point where the left elbow touches the chest. Place your hand or a stethoscope over this area and count the heartbeats for one minute.

A pulse can also be felt at the inner thigh approximately halfway between the front and the back of the leg, just below the “wrist” of the front legs or just below the “ankle” of the rear leg.

Normal Heart and pulse resting rates:

Small breed dogs	100–160 beats per minute
Medium to large dogs	60–100 beats per minute
Puppies	120–160 beats per minute
Cats	130–220 beats per minute

Breathing Rate: You can watch your pet’s chest rise and fall to calculate their breathing rate.

Normal breathing resting rates:

Dogs	10–30 breaths per minute
Cats	20–30 breaths per minute

Temperature: The most accurate temperature can be obtained by using a digital rectal thermometer. It is best to have someone restrain for you when taking your pet’s temperature. You may use a lubricant such as KY jelly when taking the temperature.

Normal temperature:

Dogs	100–102.5 degrees Fahrenheit
Cats	100–102.5 degrees Fahrenheit

The information provided in this booklet is meant to be used only as a general guide and an educational tool for the care of your pet. In the case of an emergency, a veterinarian should always be consulted for recommended treatment specifically for your pet. The hospital that is supplying this booklet disclaims any responsibility for mistreatment or misdiagnosis of your pet that may arise from the improper use of this booklet.