Dog Emergency First Aid Summaries

1. Phone numbers to keep handy:
   1. Veterinarian
   2. 24 hour clinic
   3. ASCPA National Poison Control Center
   4. Humane Organization
   5. Animal Shelter
2. Items to include in a pet first aid kit
   1. Muzzle
   2. Sterile gauze dressing
   3. 3% hydrogen peroxide
   4. Adhesive bandage
   5. Sterile eye wash
   6. Antibiotic ointment
   7. Penlight
   8. Scissors
   9. Tweezers
   10. Rectal thermometer
   11. Grooming clippers
   12. Blanket
   13. Cold pack
   14. Leash
   15. Emergency numbers
3. If a dog is unconscious with no head or back injuries:
   1. Make sure the scene is safe
   2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
   3. Tilt the head slightly back
   4. Pull the tongue forward
   5. Clear the mouth of debris and vomit
   6. Check the CABs (circulation, breathing, and breathing)
4. If the animal is not breathing:
   1. Make sure the scene is safe
   2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
   3. Extend the head and neck
   4. Pull the tongue forward
   5. Enclose the nose and mouth with your hands, holding the mouth closed
   6. Place your mouth over the nose
   7. Breath 2-3 seconds
   8. The chest should expand with each breath
   9. Breath every 3-5 seconds until the animal breathes on its own or you can get it to a veterinarian. Check pulse and breathing every two minutes.
5. If the animal has no pulse
   1. Make sure the scene is safe
   2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
   3. Check the animal’s pulse behind the left elbow on the lower part of the chest or on the femoral artery where the back leg meets the body.
   4. If the dog has no heartbeat, perform CPR.
   5. Lay the dog on its right side with its left side up
   6. Perform compressions on the left side of the chest just behind the elbow on the widest part of the chest
   7. For large dogs, compress 1-2 inches with the dog facing away from you; for small dogs, compress ½ to 1 inch with the dog facing you.
   8. If you are by yourself, perform 30 compressions for every 2 breaths (unless the dog is breathing on its own)
   9. If you are with someone, perform 15 compression for every breath.
   10. Check the pulse and vital signs every 2 minutes until help arrives or the dog recovers
6. If an animal is choking
   1. Make sure the scene is safe
   2. Try to dislodge the object by hand
   3. Lift the dog by the front legs with the spine against your chest
   4. Wrap your arms around the animal under its ribs
   5. Make a fist with one hand; put your other hand over the fist and give 5 rapid abdominal thrusts in an inward and upward motion.
   6. Check the animal’s mouth with a light to see if the object is dislodged.
   7. If the animal is too large to lift, lay the animal on its side
   8. Extend the head and neck
   9. Place the palms of your hand below the rib cage and give 5 rapid abdominal compressions in an inward and upward motion.
   10. Check the animal’s mouth to see if the object is dislodged.
   11. Continue until the object is dislodged even if the animal goes unconscious (you cannot perform rescue breathing or CPR until the airway is clear).
   12. Perform rescue breathing or CPR if needed if the animal is not breathing after the object is dislodged.
   13. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
7. If an animal is drowning
8. Make sure the scene is safe
9. Throw the dog anything that floats.
10. If you must swim to the dog, bring something for the dog to cling to or that you can snag the dog with. Make sure you have assistance – the dog could pull you under.
11. If the dog is unconscious, place the back end of the dog higher than the front to drain water from the airway.
12. When your dog recovers, keep it warm and transport to a vet
13. Bone fracture or broken bone
    1. Look for the following: swelling, deformity, lameness, or bone showing through the skin
    2. Make a splint by wrapping the affected area in a cloth towel and securing with strips of tape; do not put the tape over the affected area
    3. Call or have someone call a veterinarian and transport the animal
14. Car Accident:
    1. Make sure the scene is safe; if the accident occurred on a busy highway, call and wait for a police officer so that you are not injured too.
    2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
    3. Move the dog out of the flow of traffic to protect both of you – use a board or blanket if you suspect a spinal injury.
    4. Check the CAB’s and check for a spinal injury. Prevent the head and spine from moving – use a rigid board or a blanked to move if possible.
    5. Airway, Breathing, and Circulation are the top priorities – perform rescue breathing or CPR if needed before taking any other action.
    6. If you suspect a spinal injury, be careful not to move the animal any more than is necessary. Secure the dog to a wide board using wide tape or straps (avoid the injured areas with the tape). If you do not have a board, use a coat or blanked.
    7. If the dog has heavy bleeding, stop the bleeding using direct pressure and absorbent cloth. If the cloth is soaked with blood, leave it in place and cover with a second unused cloth.
    8. If the dog is suffering from evisceration, cover the gaping wound and exposed organs with a wet cloth or towel. Keep the organs moist.
    9. Transport the animal to a veterinarian immediately. Make sure someone has already called the vet to inform them of your arrival.
    10. Cover the dog with a blanket to prevent shock while on the way.
15. Penetrating Chest Wounds
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
    3. If your dog has a penetrating chest wound, you will hear air moving through the wound on the chest cavity
       1. The dog will have trouble breathing and look distressed
    4. Cover the wound with a gauze pad coated with petroleum jelly or an antibiotic ointment.
    5. Hold the gauze in place with a nonrestricting bandage and transport the dog to a vet immediately.
    6. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock.
16. Embedded Objects
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
    3. Do not remove the object.
    4. Check the dog’s CABs
    5. Secure the object in place using several rolls of gauze and tape.
    6. Brace the object with anything you can find (such as a foam coffee cup or lots of gauze and tape).
    7. Cut the object to 5 inches from the wound if it is long.
    8. Transport the dog to a vet immediately.
    9. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock.
17. Poisoning
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Check the CABs
    3. Identify the poison
    4. Call (888) 426-4435 (Poison Control)
    5. If advised, make your dog vomit:
       1. First feed it moist dog food or bread
       2. Give it 3% hydrogen peroxide at a rate of 1 teaspoon for every 5 lbs of body weight up to 9 teaspoons.
    6. Take the poison and a sample of the vomit with you.
    7. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
    8. Transport the dog to a vet immediately.
    9. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock. Monitor its CABs
18. Hypothermia
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Take the dog to a warm room
    3. Wrap it in a blanket
    4. Dry the dog with towels if needed.
    5. Do not apply heating pads or hot water bottles- you must slowly increase the dog’s body temperature.
    6. If the dog’s temp is below 98.5o, transport to a vet
    7. Transport the dog to a vet.
    8. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock. Monitor its CABs
19. Frostbite
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Restrain the dog and wrap the affected area with a warmed towel
    3. Place the affected areas in tepid water if possible; do not apply heat packs
    4. Transport the dog to a vet.
    5. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock. Monitor its CABs
20. Burns
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. If severe, call or have someone call a veterinarian
    3. Rinse off the affected area with water if possible.
    4. Cover the affected area with a cool, wet cloth or cold pack and wrap in a loose bandage.
    5. If severe, transport the dog to a vet.
    6. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock. Monitor its CABs
    7. If it is a chemical burn, call Poison Control for advice before taking action.
21. Heat stroke
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
    3. Check for rapid breathing and pulse
    4. Move the dog to a cool location and immerse in tepid water (NOT ice water)
    5. Apply cold compresses to the head
    6. Cover the dog with a towel and pour tepid water over it
    7. If severe, transport the dog to a vet.
    8. Keep the dog cool; monitor its CABs
22. Electric Shock
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Unplug the appliance or shut off the power. If not possible, use a dry wooden pole to move the wires.
    3. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
    4. Check the CABs – perform CPR or rescue breathing if needed.
    5. Treat the burns using the same procedure to regular burns.
    6. Transport the dog to a vet.
    7. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock. Monitor its CABs
23. Eye Injuries
    1. Make sure the scene is safe
    2. Call or have someone call a veterinarian
    3. Rinse the eye with contact solution, saline, or pure water for 5 minutes
    4. If the eye is swollen, apply a moist compress to make the dog more comfortable.
    5. Do not attempt to remove any object that has penetrated the eye
    6. Transport the dog to a vet if needed. Cover the dog with a blanked to prevent shock. Monitor its CABs