

# What can I do if I have an emergency situation with my pet?



[www.greystonesvet.ie](http://www.greystonesvet.ie)

## Handling an injured pet:

An injured pet is likely to be scared, confused and in pain. When handling him in this state you need to be careful to avoid being bitten or scratched as he may behave out of character and could easily cause you severe injury.

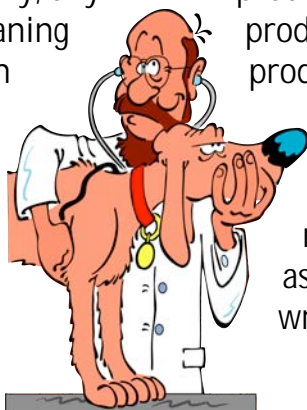
1. Don't 'crowd' an injured pet. Keep your face away from its mouth. If necessary place a muzzle to reduce danger when lifting him (don't muzzle a pet which is vomiting or having difficulty breathing through the nose). A dressing gown belt or stocking can be useful if you have no muzzle available. Cats can be wrapped up in a large towel to restrain them.
2. Examine him with caution and stop if he become agitated. Try to stabilise injuries if possible by bandaging / splinting and stem bleeding by applying direct pressure on a dressing over the site (a clean cotton T- shirt can serve the purpose well).
3. Phone us at the Vet Hospital for advice and to let us know you are on the way. If it is 'out of hours' there will be contact details for the dedicated after hours 'Pet Emergency Hospital'. A map is available to download on this website.
4. You can use a sheet to lift dogs 'stretcher-like' into the car. Cats are most safely transported in a box. While transporting him to the Vet Hospital, try to keep him confined to a small area as he may hurt himself if he moves about.



## Basic First Aid:

It is important to get to us as soon as possible but the following points may be crucial to the speed and extent of recovery and may even save your pet's life.

- \* **Ingested Poisons:** Generally, any also harmful for pets; cleaning antifreeze. Other common humans. The most serious poisoning in pet has ingested a advice on whether or way to the Vet Hospital bring the product's



products that are harmful for people are products, rodenticides, slug pellets, products can be harmful to pets but not to common food product to cause dog's is chocolate. If you think your poison, phone us immediately for not to induce vomiting. Make your as soon as possible but remember to wrapper with you.

- \* **Contact Irritants:** In the event of your pet's skin or eyes being exposed to a toxic product, check the product label for the instructions for people exposed to the product, follow the advice as per human exposure and call us immediately.
- \* **Burns:** immediate first aid treatment is critically important to reducing the severity of tissue damage. Muzzle your pet as treatment can be painful. Flush burns immediately with large quantities of cold water for 2-5 minutes and then contact us immediately.

- \* **Fractures:** it would be safest to muzzle your pet - this is not cruel, it prevents danger of biting and can calm a dog in pain as it can resign them to lying more quietly. Gently lay your pet on a flat surface for support. Use a blanket or board as a stretcher or to wrap around them for transport. Unless you have some medical training, it is probably best not to attempt to splint a fracture.

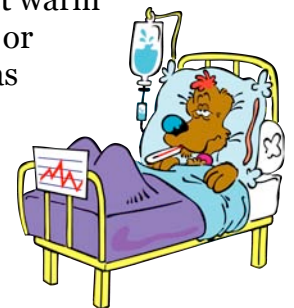


- \* **Bleeding:** again, muzzling is a good idea. Apply direct pressure to a dressing over the site (a clean cotton T- shirt can serve the purpose well) and keep pressure over the wound with your hand until the blood starts clotting. This will take several minutes, so keep the pressure on it for at least that long before checking it. If there is severe bleeding from a limb, apply a tourniquet between the wound and the body. Loosen the tourniquet for 30 seconds every 15 minutes or so. Severe bleeding can quickly be life-threatening—get your pet to us as soon as possible if this occurs. Internal bleeding can display as bleeding from nose, mouth, anus, coughing up blood, blood in urine, pale gums, collapse, weak and rapid pulse. Keep him as warm and quiet as possible and transport immediately to the Vet Hospital.



- \* **Seizures:** keep your pet away from any objects (including furniture) that might hurt it. Do not try to restrain the pet; this may cause stress and put you in danger of being bitten. Dim the lights and make sure to keep the environment as quiet and calm as possible. Time the seizure (they usually last 2-3 minutes). After the seizure has stopped, keep your pet as warm and quiet as possible and contact us as soon as you can.

- \* **Shock:** shock can result from severe injury or trauma and causes shallow rapid breathing, weak pulse and dissociated behaviour. Keep your pet warm and quiet. If he loses consciousness, make sure the head is kept level or slightly below the rest of the body. Contact the Vet Hospital as soon as possible.



- \* **Heatstroke.** It is dangerous to leave your pet in the car on warm days. The temperature inside a car can rise rapidly even on milder days. Pets can quickly succumb to heatstroke. Get him out of direct sunlight, place a cold, wet towel around his neck and head, leaving eyes and nose clear. Remove and rewet towel every few minutes. Keep applying water running over the his body, particularly over the abdomen. Contact the Vet Hospital as soon as possible.

- \* **Breathing Difficulties:** Keep him as calm as possible. try to quickly ensure that it is not caused by choking on an object in the mouth. Contact us as soon as possible.

- \* **Choking:** handle with caution as a choking pet can be in a state of panic and may inadvertently cause nasty bite wounds. If a foreign object is visible gently try to remove it with a tweezers, but be careful not to push the object further down the throat. Don't waste time trying to remove it if it's not easy to reach. If he has collapsed and is having severe breathing difficulties, place your hands on both sides of the chest and apply quick firm pressure to try to dislodge the object. Get to the Vet Hospital as soon as possible.
  
- \* **Breathing stopped:** Phone Vet Hospital immediately. Assess whether he is unconscious. Make sure airway is clear by pulling tongue outwards and tucking it under the lower jaw outside of the mouth. Check to see if there is an obstruction in the mouth. You can preform the veterinary version of 'mouth to mouth' by closing the mouth and blowing through the nose until you see the chest expand (assisted breathing). Once the chest expands, continue this procedure once every or 5 seconds or so.
  
- \* **Heartbeat stopped:** The chances of resuscitating a pet whose heart has stopped beating is very low, but is certainly work trying. First you need to make sure the airway is clear and start 'assisted breathing'. Lay your pet on its right side on a firm, flat surface. Place one hand underneath the pet's chest for support and place the other hand over the lower half of the chest, just behind the elbow of the front leg (with cats and other small pets, it may be easier to use thumb and index finger on opposing sides of chest instead). Compressions need to be gentle with small dogs and cats but increasingly firmer the bigger the dog. Aim at pressing down 3 cm for a medium dog and adjust appropriately for smaller or larger pets. Press down at a rapid rate of 2-3 times per second (the smaller the pet, the faster the the compressions need to be). Alternate breaths and chest compression (aprox 5 seconds chest compression per breath). Continue until you detect a heartbeat or regular breathing. Contact the Vet Hospital as soon as possible.

