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PET FIRST AID KIT

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I believe it is the Boy Scouts that have the motto “Be Prepared”. In times of crisis, nothing improves the outcome like a calm mind and being prepared. People often ask what they can do at home when presented with a pet emergency. I always recommend calling your veterinarian. But it is also a great idea to have a few of the basic tools together because many emergencies can be handled at home.

Assembling a pet emergency kit will reduce the time needed to act if your pet is injured, poisoned, or has an allergic reaction. The following is a list of items needed for a well-stocked emergency kit:

- Roll Cotton
- Bandage Material (tape, roll gauze, Vetwrap, Telfa pads)
- Cotton Balls
- Fresh Hydrogen Peroxide (*NOT rubbing alcohol)
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Scissors
- Eye Flush/Wash
- Tweezers/Hemostat
- Oral Syringe
- Exam Gloves
- Thermometer
- Benadryl
- Muzzle (appropriate size for your pet)

Most items are self-explanatory, but hydrogen peroxide is used not just to flush wounds, but also to make a dog vomit. Benadryl is used in allergic reactions and your veterinarian can get you the right dose for your pet.

Another item that is very important in your medical kit is your pet's medical records. You will likely be on the phone with your veterinarian at the same time you are needing your kit and we are likely to ask questions like "Is your pet on any medications currently?" Having the records close by can be helpful.

Pet first aid classes are available through various community programs. Books are also available on basic husbandry and first aid. Taking the time to be prepared and assembling a few items can really pay off when the unexpected occurs.