

Dog Emergency First Aid Tips

Disclaimer: These are stabilization steps only—never delay professional vet care. Call ahead en route.

UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY PROTOCOL (ALL CASES)

- Stay calm—panic stresses your dog.
- Assess ABCs: Airway (clear mouth), Breathing (chest rise), Circulation (pulse/gums pink).
- Prevent shock: Cover with blanket/towel, elevate rear if no spine injury.
- Control bleeding: Direct pressure with clean cloth (10 mins min); don't remove embedded objects.
- Transport safely: Muzzle if in pain (bite risk), crate/car on flat surface, drive smoothly.
- No human meds/food/water unless vet instructs.

SA-SPECIFIC PREP KIT CHECKLIST

Pack these in your car/glovebox for emergencies:

- Tick remover tool
- Digital thermometer (rectal: normal 38-39°C)
- Clean towels/bandages, vet wrap
- Muzzle (DIY sock/tape)
- Hydrogen peroxide 3% (induce vomit)
- Blunt scissors, gloves
- Cold packs (swelling), space blanket (shock)



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MY PET DETAILS

Pet's name/breed/age: _____

Microchip #: _____

Vaccinations up-to-date? Yes No (Date: _____)

Pet insurance? Yes (Provider: _____)

VET NUMBER DAYTIME: _____

VET NUMBER AFTER HOURS: _____

EMERGENCY	KEY SIGNS	URGENT STEPS
Snake Bite	Swelling, pain, vomiting, collapse	Immobilize limb, keep still/low heart rate, NO tourniquet/suction/ incisions. Antivenom at vet only.
Tick Bite Fever	Fever, lethargy, jaundice, pale gums	Remove ticks (fine tweezers, twist/pull straight), save for ID. Antibiotics ASAP.
Bloat (GDV)	Distended abdomen, retching, drooling	Walk gently if possible, elevate front (kneel dog), NO food/water. Surgery stat.
Car Accident	Limping, bleeding, shock, breathing issues	Stabilize neck/spine (towel roll), stop bleeding, warm/cool as needed. X-rays urgent.
Porcupine Quills	Face/mouth quills, pain, infection risk	Cut quills near skin (allows contraction), pull superficial ones firmly. Vet for deep/sedation.
Parvovirus	Bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weakness	Isolate, NO food/water (dehydration risk). IV fluids at ICU only.
Poisoning (Biltong/Chocolate Bobotie)	Vomiting, seizures, tremors ("dog ate biltong what to do")	Note what/amount/time, induce vomit ONLY if vet says (hydrogen peroxide 3% 1tsp/5kg). Charcoal at vet.