

# PET FIRST AID

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**A**s summer approaches we will see more people out with their pets. The outdoor exposure adds to the possibility of your dog acquiring an injury. I am providing a list of items you might consider including as a first aid kit for your dog. The most frequent calls our Veterinary Hospital receives are in regard to vomiting, diarrhea, and lameness or trauma.

Vomiting and diarrhea may be due to ingestion of a foreign object, toxin, parasites, or a metabolic illness.

Lameness can include fractured bones, tendon rupture, swelling due to bites or envenomation from snakes or spiders.

The items listed below are **NOT** an alternative to seeking veterinary care but something you can do to aid your dog on your way to the doctor. If you have a good working relationship with your veterinarian, most will be happy to fill a small prescription for these items for you to keep at home or take when you travel with your pet.



1. Antihistamine, Benadryl 25 mg. Dose is typically 1mg per pound body weight, can be repeated at 4-6 hours for snakebites, etc.
2. Endosorb or Lomotil for diarrhea
3. A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory such as Rimadyl, Meloxidyl, or Gallaprant can be used for discomfort of musculoskeletal soreness.
4. Cerenia tablets for nausea. This drug helps nausea for 24 hours.
5. Bandaging material, i.e. stretch gauze, coflex, tape
6. Muzzle or nylon hose to act as muzzle
7. A lead (can also act as muzzle)
8. Thermometer
9. A broad-spectrum antibiotic such as Amoxicillin
10. An anti-bacterial agent such as chlorohexidine as a cleaner and flush
11. An ear wash, whether homemade or prepared product
12. An eye wash
13. A ophthalmic triple antibiotic ointment or solution for eyes
14. Foil packet of microwave rice (good for gastroenteritis)

If you have the above items you can handle vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain, and start an antibiotic for puncture, bites, etc. These agents again are not a substitute for seeing your veterinarian but may help keep you out of an emergency room until you can see your doctor during regular hours.