



# Animal Emergency Referral Center's Guide to PET EMERGENCIES

**if you feel your pet is experiencing discomfort, has symptoms of sickness, been exposed to toxins or involved in an accidental injury you should contact your veterinarian or an emergency veterinarian as soon as possible.** Your veterinarian or their staff will be able to assist you in determining if your pet needs prompt attention and how to safely transport your animal for treatment. When you receive this poster, immediately write in your veterinarian's name and telephone number so you will have it handy should an emergency occur. If you don't have a veterinarian, call the California Veterinary Medical Association at (800) 257-6872 for a referral in your area.

Family Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Veterinarian **ANIMAL EMERGENCY REFERRAL CENTER (310) 325-3000**

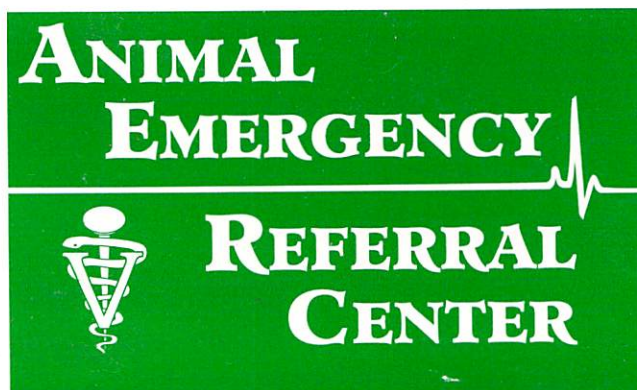
ACCIDENT/ILLNESS	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
CONVULSIONS	Shaking, falling, legs thrashing, salivating, uncontrolled urination	Move pet away from sharp cornered tables (pull pet carefully by one leg), if possible to a soft rug. Attempt to put blanket or soft cloth under pet's head. <b>DO NOT HANDLE ANIMAL IN ANY OTHER WAY DURING SEIZURE</b> as it could be dangerous to you. Convulsions usually last only 2-3 minutes. Keep animal quiet after seizure. <b>CALL VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
DIARRHEA	Loose or runny stool	Do not feed dog for 12 hours. Do provide animal with water, however, as diarrhea can cause dehydration. Small dogs and puppies should be seen immediately.
HEATSTROKE	Rapid or difficult breathing, vomiting, collapse	<b>IMMEDIATELY</b> place animal in tub of cold water or hose down if more accessible. Use rectal thermometer to monitor temperature. (Normal range is 100.5F-102.5) Encourage animal to drink cool water. Apply ice-pack to animal's head. <b>CALL VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
SHOCK	Weak pulse, shallow breathing, nervousness, dazed appearance	Often accompanies severe injury or extreme fright. Keep animal restrained, quiet, and warm. If unconscious, keep head level with rest of body.
VOMITING	(without other symptoms)	Remove food and do not feed animal for 12 hours. Also remove water for 12 hours, then provide to animal in limited quantities. Small dogs and puppies should be seen immediately. <b>CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
ANIMAL NOT BREATHING	No movement in chest, no air expelled from mouth or nose	<b>ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION</b> -Clear animal's mouth of foreign matter. Close animal's muzzle with hands, cover nose with clean, thin cloth and exhale directly into animal's nostrils at 12-15 breaths per minute. CPR-Lay animal on its right side on flat surface. With mouth closed and artificial respiration in progress, locate the heart by reaching deep into the socket of the pet's left leg and counting 3-4 ribs back towards the tail along the pet's chest. Place heel of hand in that spot and compress chest rhythmically 60-80 times per minute. Compress 1-2 inches for large dogs, less than 1 inch for small dogs/cats. <b>TRANSPORT YOUR PET TO VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
BITE WOUNDS	Swelling, puncture, hair loss, hair matted with saliva, pus or blood	Muzzle animal (see RESTRAINT). Clip hair around wound. Clean by liberally applying hydrogen peroxide. Apply bandage to control bleeding. <b>CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
BLEEDING External		Muzzle animal (see RESTRAINT). Place thick gauze or cotton pad over wound and hold firmly. Use hands to apply firm, continuous pressure directly over bleeding area until clotting occurs. If there will be a delay in reaching the veterinarian, a large, clean bath towel can be used as a tourniquet. Apply tourniquet between the cut and the heart, <b>LOOSENING EVERY 3-5 MINUTES.</b>
BLEEDING Internal	Pale gums, coughing blood, bleeding from nose, mouth, rectum, blood in urine, collapse, rapid or weak pulse.	Keep animal as warm and quiet as possible. <b>DO NOT ATTEMPT FIRST AID. SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
BURNS Chemical	Severe rash, red/flush skin color	Muzzle animal (see RESTRAINT). Flush immediately with large quantities of cold water. <b>TRANSPORT TO VETERINARIAN!</b>

BURNS Severe	Severe redness, skin peeling, flush color	Muzzle animal (see RESTRAINT). Quickly apply icewater compresses. Treat for shock.
CHOKING	Pawing at mouth, gagging, drooling, coughing, collapse	Quickly look into mouth to see if foreign object in throat is visible. If possible, grasp with tweezers or pliers and remove. <b>IF OBJECT REMAINS LODGED IN THROAT:</b> Try a sharp blow on back of neck or between shoulders. <b>IF THIS FAILS, ATTEMPT A HEIMLICH MANEUVER:</b> Place hands on either side of animal's rib cage and apply firm, quick pressure. Repeat 2-3 times. <b>SEE VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
DROWNING		Hold animal up by hind legs to expel water from lungs. Remove any foreign matter from mouth and throat. Begin artificial respiration and CPR if animal has stopped breathing. (See "Animal Not Breathing" section.) <b>TRANSPORT TO VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
EYE CONDITIONS	Foreign object in eye	If you can see it and it is not imbedded in the eye, muzzle the animal and remove it.
EYE CONDITIONS	Eyeball out of socket	Put socks on animal's front paws to prevent scratching. Muzzle animal and gently attempt to push back in socket. Keep moist with saline solution— <b>SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
FRACTURES		Muzzle animal (see RESTRAINT). Control bleeding, treat for shock if necessary. <b>DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SET FRACTURE.</b> Transport to your veterinarian on plywood or wooden door padded with blankets. If veterinary care is not readily available, splint fracture by padding limb with gauze or cotton, place two flat sticks or rolled newspaper on either side of leg and tape. <b>SEE VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>
POISONING	Retching, convulsions, labored breathing, diarrhea, dilated pupils, salivation, weakness, collapse	If you can quickly determine what the animal ingested and how much, call your veterinarian immediately and provide animal's weight, age and other medical problems. <b>TIME IS CRITICAL!</b> Take further instructions over phone as antidotes vary.
SNAKEBITE- Non-poisonous	Puncture, swelling, hair loss, hair matted with saliva, pus or blood	Treat as for animal with bite wound.
SNAKEBITE- Poisonous	Puncture, swelling, hair loss, hair matted with saliva, pus or blood	Muzzle animal (see RESTRAINT). Keep animal quiet to slow flow of venom. If leg wound, apply flat tourniquet above wound. <b>SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!</b>

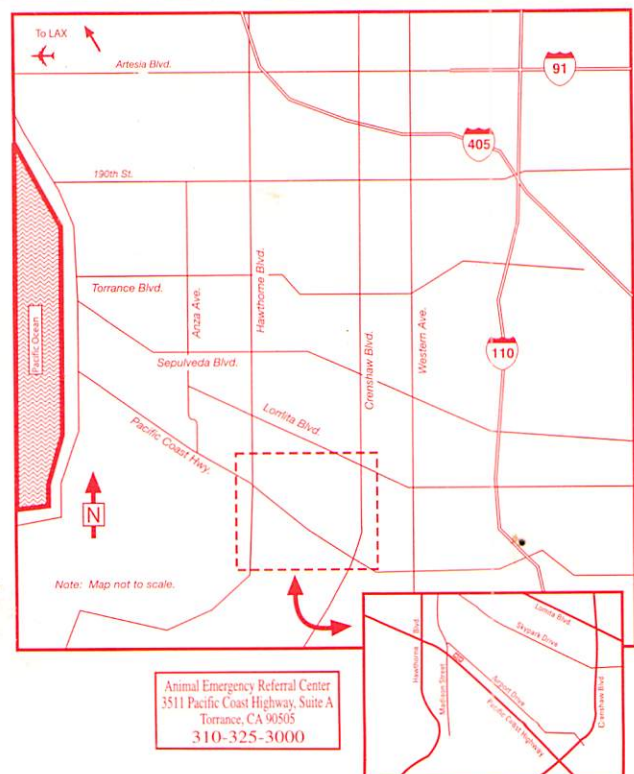
**RESTRAINT:** In many injuries to animals, it is necessary to employ restraint. An animal who is injured and in pain cannot be held responsible for its behavior.

Follow these directions carefully:

1. Use strip gauze, necktie, rope or cloth about 3 feet long.
2. Make large loop in center, slip quickly over animal's nose.
3. Bring ends under chin and behind ears, fasten securely.



**310-325-3000**



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3511 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite A  
Torrance, CA 90505  
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