

### Shock

Symptoms: not very responsive, pale gums, irregular breathing, dilated pupils

Shock occurs with serious injury. Keep pet gently restrained, quiet and warm.

Call veterinarian immediately.

### Vomiting

Withhold food for 24 hours. Give small amounts of water frequently for two hours after vomiting stops. Give access to water after two hours and slowly introduce food after 24 hours.

Call veterinarian if your pet vomits more than 3 times in 24 hours, has blood in the vomitus or symptoms persist more than 24 hours.

### Emergency Supplies

The following items will provide you with a basic first aid kit for your pet. Most of the items can be found at your local drug store.

Sterile gauze pads (4"x 4"), self-adhering bandages (stick to themselves), alcohol prep pads (to clean instruments and hands), instant ice packs, latex gloves, antiseptic solution (to clean wounds), triple antibiotic ointment, small flashlight, blunt scissors, tweezers, collar and leash, emergency blanket.

### Microchip Identification

Several times each year a sick or injured pet is found, identified as our patient by its rabies tag and brought to the hospital. An implanted microchip provides a permanent, nationwide means to identify lost or stolen pets. Many shelters and agencies routinely scan incoming pets for microchips.

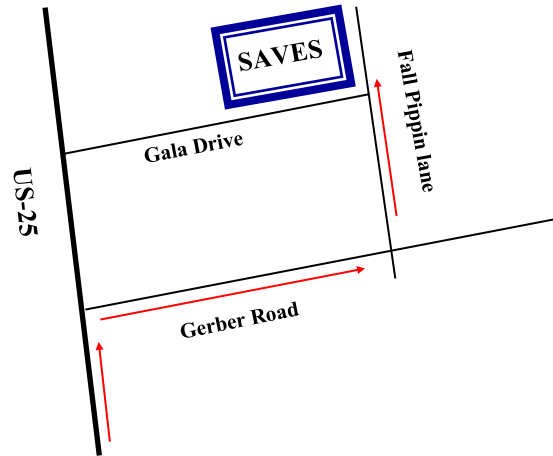
### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

While we are not an emergency hospital, we prioritize seeing our established clients in good standing. During normal business hours, please call us so we can review your pet's medical record and prepare the treatment area for your arrival.

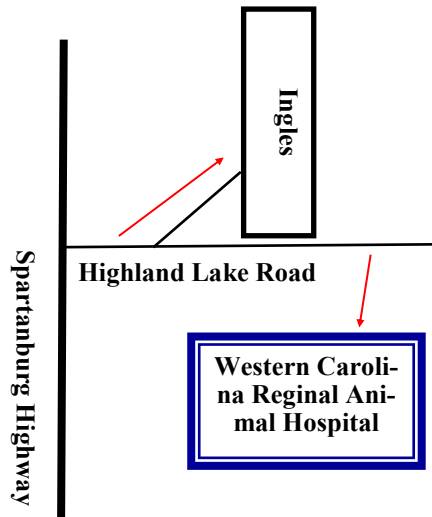
Depending on our staffing, other urgent cases, and the nature of your pet's emergency, we may advise you to proceed directly to an emergency facility for the best interest of your pet.

**For emergencies after 3:30 PM Monday thru Friday, or weekends or holidays please go directly to an emergency facility.**

### Directions to: SAVES (828) 210-8285



### Directions to: Western Carolina Reginal Animal Hospital (828) 697-7767



### Direction from Animal Care Clinic to Western Carolina Regional Animal Hospital:

- ◆ Turn right onto Old Spartanburg Road
- ◆ At the light turn left onto Spartanburg Hwy US-176 E
- ◆ In 1.3 Miles turn right onto N Highland Lake road
- ◆ In 0.2 Miles the destination will be on the right

# Animal Care Clinic

# Pet First Aid



Phone: (828) 692-7201

Fax: (828) 692-6062

Email: [info@animalcarehospital.vet](mailto:info@animalcarehospital.vet)  
[www.animalcarehospital.vet](http://www.animalcarehospital.vet)

1006 Old Spartanburg Rd  
Hendersonville NC 28792

# Emergencies

Approach any sick or wounded animal carefully. Trusted family pets can bite when in pain or shock & wildlife can transmit rabies.

This list is to help you identify emergencies in your pet. If you have any question about the seriousness of an injury or illness, contact the veterinarian immediately.

## **Bite Wounds**

Approach carefully. Apply a muzzle. Check the wound for debris. If foreign material is present flush the wound with clean tap water. Bandage large wounds to keep them clean. Apply direct pressure if bleeding is serious, (see Bleeding below). Bite wounds often become infected. Veterinary care can greatly reduce the risk.

Call veterinarian.

## **Bite Wounds, snake inflicted**

Symptoms: pain, rapid swelling, weakness, shock, puncture wounds which may be hard to see in fur. Exertion can spread the venom. Keep patient calm. Get emergency treatment immediately.

Call veterinarian immediately.

## **Bites/Stings, insect inflicted**

Symptoms: swelling, pain, itching

Give Benadryl (Diphenhydramine) 1mg per pound of body weight.

Call veterinarian.

## **Bleeding**

Apply firm, direct pressure to the wound for 8 to 10 minutes. Releasing pressure to check progress only slows the clotting process. If bandaging, be careful not to cut off circulation. Only use a tourniquet as the last resort because irreparable damage is likely.

Call veterinarian immediately.

## **Blunt Trauma (usually falls or hit-by-car)**

Approach carefully. Apply a muzzle. Any fall over two feet or any strike which knocks the pet off its feet should be considered an emergency. Internal bleeding and lung injuries are a serious concern in these circumstances. Use extreme caution when moving as bone fractures and spinal injury may be present.

Call veterinarian immediately.

## **Breathing Problems / CPR**

Any breathing difficulty is an emergency.

See if the animal is choking on something (see Choking below). If an object is removed from the throat and the pet is still not breathing, place the animal with its right side down. Close the pet's mouth and exhale directly into its nose until its chest expands. Repeat 12-15 times per minute. At the same time, apply heart massage with the other hand. The heart is located in the lower half of the chest. Compress the chest 1 to 2 inches for large dogs, 1 inch for small dogs and cats. Apply heart compressions 70-90 times per minute.

Call veterinarian immediately.

## **Burns**

Symptoms: singed hair, blistering, redness. Flush area with large amounts of cold water. Apply ice pack for 15 to 20 minutes.

Call veterinarian immediately.

## **Choking**

Symptoms: difficulty breathing, excessive pawing at mouth, blue tongue and gums.

See if an obstruction is visible in the throat. If so, clear the airway by removing object. Pliers or tweezers can be used to grip and pull objects. If object remains lodged, place hands on both sides of rib cage and apply quick, firm pressure. Another method is to place pet on its side and strike the rib cage firmly 3-4 times with the palm of your hand. Repeat procedure until object is dislodged. See section on Breathing Problems / CPR

Call veterinarian immediately.

## **Fractures**

Symptoms: pain, inability to use limb. Muzzle pet and control bleeding if necessary. Do not try to reset fracture.

Transport to veterinarian immediately using a stretcher.

## **Diarrhea**

Withhold food 12-24 hours. Provide water only. (If unvaccinated for parvovirus, call the veterinarian.) Call veterinarian if symptoms persist more than 12 hours in cats or small dogs. Call veterinarian if symptoms persist more than 24 hours in large dogs.

## **Heat Stroke**

Symptoms: rapid or difficult breathing, vomiting, high body temperature, collapse.

Place pet in a tub of luke warm water, soak with a garden hose or wrap in cool wet towels. Do Not Use Ice.. Call veterinarian immediately.

## **Poisoning**

Symptoms may include: vomiting, convulsions, pain, diarrhea, salivation, weakness, breathing difficulty.

If consumed, record what and how much if possible. Immediately call the veterinarian or a poison control center (1-888-426-4435). Do not induce vomiting without direction from the doctor.

For poison on the fur/skin from oils, paints or chemicals, wash the pet with dishwashing detergent and rinse well. Wear appropriate gloves/clothing to protect yourself from exposure.

Call the veterinarian.

Common items poisonous to pets include: tulips, mushrooms, hyacinths, daffodils, lilies, Lily of the Valley, anti-freeze, household cleaners, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, NSAIDS (like ibuprofen & aspirin), cold & flu medications, acetaminophen, vitamins, diet pills, bleach, disinfectants, mothballs, fabric softener, anti-cancer drugs, drain cleaners, potpourri, pest control products, tobacco and gums containing xylitol.

## **Seizure**

Symptoms: Salivation, loss of bladder and bowel control, violent muscle movement, loss of consciousness

Move pet away from objects that could be harmful. Use blankets or towels for protective padding. Do not put yourself at risk by restraining the pet during a seizure. (take a video on your cell phone if possible to show the doctor) Seizures usually last 2-3 minutes. Afterwards keep the pet calm, quiet and cool.

Call veterinarian immediately.