



WHY SHOULD I LEARN ABOUT PET FIRST AID?

By Ines de Pablo

Simple answers:

- Why Not?
- Because you can
- You are your Pets 911!
- You took on the responsibility of providing shelter and health care the day you adopted the pet
- You will have the confidence to know what to do and the skill to do it if and when something happens to your pet

When your pet has an emergency, being prepared is very important. Before an emergency strikes, be sure you know

- How your veterinarian handles emergencies (does she/he have after hours number?)
- Where can you go if the primary veterinarian is not available
- How can I contact them (veterinarian, on call veterinarian or veterinary hospital)? Make sure to keep all those numbers readily available in your cell phone
- The number for the National Animal Poison Control Center – 1-888-426-4435 (and that they charge \$60 per call). Also keep that in your cell phone.

When you take a pet first aid class, you will learn valuable skills such as how to approach an injured pet, muzzle, restraint and carry techniques; how to administer medication, recognizing an emergency, you will also learn how to recognize what is Normal for your pet , how to detect dehydration and how to treat shock, choking, bleeding, allergic reaction, electrocution, poisoning emergencies, broken backs and bones, bloat & torsion, blood sugar emergencies, breathing emergencies, burns, cuts & tears, eye emergencies, fish hook, frostbite, gunshot, nail hypothermia, puncture & bite wound, seizures, smoke inhalation ticks, vomiting and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Yes! A lot can go wrong with pets! They are not that different from us! Remember that they do have the same organs we do, a tendency to hide pain (survival instinct), very good noses, strange taste and are very curious...does that sound familiar to human parents (minus the super sense of smell..maybe).

The biggest problem is that we cannot explain to them why some things are bad. Our attempts at explanation is generally received as bla bla bla "pets name" bla la bla....

Also, most things pet get themselves into are not NATURAL things...brake fluid and rat poison are man made chemicals. Cars are human made machines that function in a manner foreign to most animals. Their senses are not intrinsically trained to comprehend what we know to be dangerous.

Emergencies don't happen when we expect them to and they have that bad tendency on happening at times when we are either too far away or after hours when our regular vet cannot answer the call. Depending on what the pet gets itself into you may only have seconds to respond (CPR, Breathing Emergencies, some poisons, etc) adequately to maintain life until you can reach a veterinarian.

Pet first aid is the equivalent of human first aid but remember...calling 9-1-1 is generally not an option. You are your pet's first responder and ambulance. The ability to remain calm when YOUR pet gets injured is extremely important. Pets feel and react to your heart rate and your "panic" rate. Care is best provided when the patient and rescuer remain calm...Remaining calm when you don't know what to do is quite a bit more challenging then if you knew what to do and how to get it done.

Pet first aid classes give cat and dog owners the skills necessary to tend to unexpected emergencies and to monitor their animals' health. The classes allow pet owners to provide care until they can get their pet to a veterinarian.

When looking for a pet first aid class in your area, look for classes that also provide pet dental health, senior petizen classes and pet disaster preparedness. Quality of life is measured by the status of your pet's dental health. Brushing your pets teeth is not silly! It prevent gum disease and irreversible Periodontal disease . We do not want you or your dog to have to go through that diagnosis. So don't wait. True pet first aid helps you uncover ways to prevent, prepare and respond to emergencies that impact pet health & safety.

A crisis can be averted if the emergency is well managed. That is your task as a pet parent. So be the pack leader. Be in charge. Know how to help your pets because ***it's not a matter of IF they will get in trouble but rather WHEN they will get in trouble.*** Why risk it? Get Wag'N Today!

April is Pet First Aid Awareness Month!

To sign up for Wag'N Pet First Aid Classes visit

http://www.wagn4u.com/virginia_pet_first_aid_classes.html

If you are not located in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area find a Pet Tech Instruction near you at www.PetTech.net

HAPPY HEALTHY PETS ARE WAG'N PETS!