



# First Aid for Dogs

## Information Pack

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In an emergency or for advice out of hours please phone our reception number: **01572 722646**.

A recorded message will give you details of the on-call vet, if their mobile goes to voicemail please leave your name and contact number as they will return your call as soon as it is possible to do so.

# Saving your pet with CPR

With pets increasingly being treated like a member of the family, many owners are learning emergency techniques like CPR to keep their pet alive before bringing it to a veterinarian.

If there is no breathing and no pulse, begin CPR immediately.



**Check for breathing and pulse**  
Check pulse using middle and index finger below the wrist, inner thigh (femoral artery), below the ankle or where left elbow touches the chest.

**Look for other warning signs**

- Gums and lips will appear gray-colored.
- Pupils will be dilated and not responsive to light.



**If not breathing, give breath to animal**

**Cats and small dogs**  
Place your mouth over its nose and mouth to blow air in.

**Medium-large dogs**  
Place your mouth over its nose to blow air in.



**Heimlich maneuver**

If breath won't go in, airway may be blocked. Turn dog upside down, with its back against your chest. Wrap your arms around the dog and clasp your hands together just below its rib cage (since you're holding the dog upside down, it's above the rib cage, in the abdomen). Using both arms, give five sharp thrusts to the abdomen. Then check its mouth or airway for the object. If you see it, remove it and give two more rescue breaths.



**Start compressions if no pulse**

Lay animal on right side and place hand over ribs where its elbow touches the chest. Begin compressions. Do not give compressions if dog has pulse.

Animal size	Compress chest	Compressions per breath of air
Cat/small dog (Under 30 lbs.)	1/2-1 inch	5
Medium-large dog (30-90 lbs.)	1-3 inches	5
Giant dog (over 90 lbs.)	1-3 inches	10

**Repeat procedure**

• Check pulse after 1 minute and then every few minutes.

• Continue giving CPR until the animal has a pulse and is breathing.

• Stop CPR after 20 minutes.



## POISONS

### **Poisons where a very small amount can cause toxicity:**

- Antifreeze (often spilled beside cars)
- Sugar-free chewing gum/diabetic/weight-loss food
- Gloss paint
- Dark chocolate, foods containing cocoa and cocoa mulch for your garden
- Slug pellets
- Ibuprofen
- Grapes, raisins, sultanas, currants
- Horse wormer containing Ivermectin
- Pot pourri
- Daffodil bulbs
- Coins, nuts and bolts containing zinc
- Psoriasis cream (Vitamin D toxicity)
- Mouldy bread or cheese
- Rat poison

### **Poisons where a moderate amount is needed to cause toxicity:**

- Milk chocolate and filled chocolates
- Onions, garlic, leeks and shallots (onions found in baby food)
- Green potatoes
- Coffee

### **Poisons where your dog needs to eat a lot or are not toxic:**

- White chocolate
- Lily flowers (extremely poisonous in cats)
- Wallpaper paste
- Contraceptive pill
- Desiccant sachets (labelled "do not eat")
- Statin drugs for high cholesterol

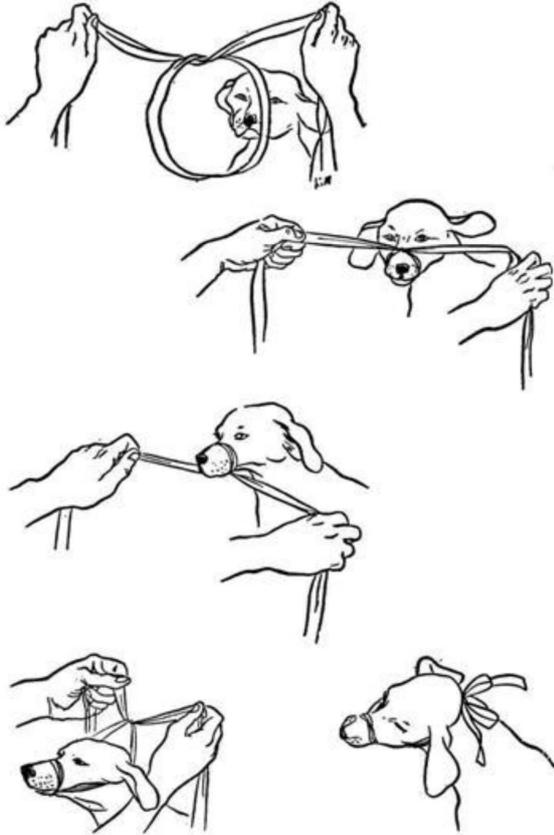
If you suspect your dog has eaten something toxic, call your vet for advice immediately; a simple injection under the skin can make your dog vomit. If this is done within two hours of eating the substance it is usually still in the stomach and so is vomited up, thus resolving the problem. If more than two hours has passed it is still worthwhile causing vomiting as the substance may still be in the stomach. Some poisons do have antidotes which can be given. Activated charcoal can help to reduce absorption of some poisons, even if given hours after ingestion.

If you suspect your dog has some of the poison on its coat then prevent it ingesting more by cutting off some of the fur or use a buster collar or muzzle to prevent licking. Never wait to see if your dog develops clinical signs, by then it may be too late to save them.

**Please note - the above list is not exhaustive for poisons found in the home.** For example, many common house plants can cause toxicity. If your dog has eaten something and you are unsure whether it could be poisonous, always phone your vet for advice immediately.

# What to do when your dog has been involved in an accident

1. Before examining your dog or having any kind of contact with him apply a tape muzzle to avoid any accidental bites to you or any other person.



## Tape Muzzle

A - Make a loop crossing both ends of the bandage.

B - Slide the loop onto the nose of the dog and tighten it up.

C - Tie a new knot under the mouth of the dog, crossing again the ends of the bandage.

D - Take the ends towards the back of the ears and tie it making a new knot at the back of the neck

2. Once the tape muzzle has been placed try to examine your dog looking for any bleeding. If you find a wound then apply compression to the area and bandage it leaving enough space to place one of your fingers under the bandage without difficulty.
3. Check again for other bleeding.

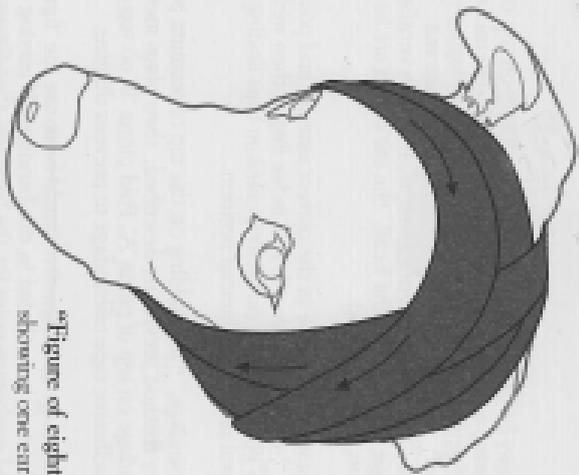
**CONTACT YOUR VET TO MAKE THEM AWARE THAT YOU WILL BE ON YOUR WAY TO THEM.**

This will enable us to be set up and prepared for your arrival.

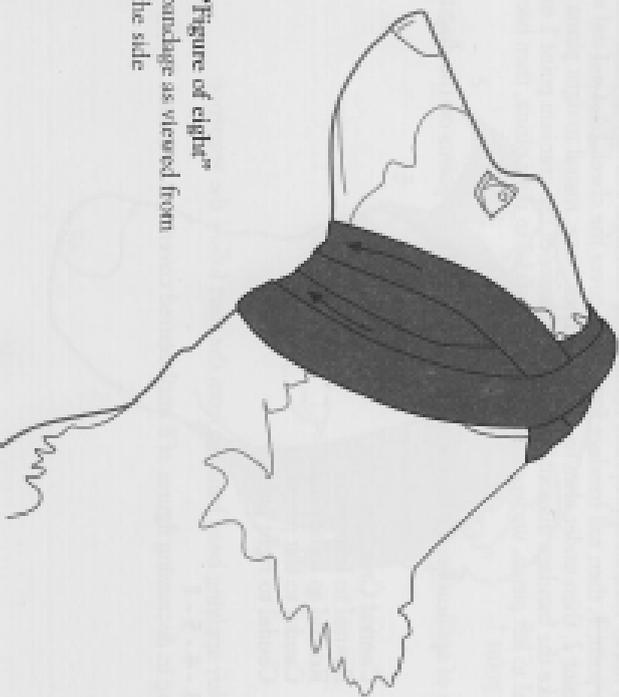
4. If your dog is able to walk help him/her to get into the car and go straight to your vet. If your dog is unable to move do not force them. Instead place him/her on to a blanket, coat or jumper and with an assistant use this as a stretcher to transport him/her into the car and travel carefully to the vet.

**24 hour Emergency Service**

**Telephone: 01572 722646    [www.oakhamvethospital.co.uk](http://www.oakhamvethospital.co.uk)**



"Figure of eight" bandage showing one ear left out



"Figure of eight" bandage as viewed from the side

## Ear & Head Bandage

Use to cover the head and ears if they are bleeding (see illustration left). You may need someone to help you hold the dog still.

- Fold the injured ear flap up so it sits on the top of the head. Place a pad of gauze swabs, melolin (shiny side down) or cotton wool on top of it. (If both ears are injured fold them both up as above and bandage without an ear exposed.)

Apply a "figure-of-eight" bandage with an ear left out of the bandage as follows:

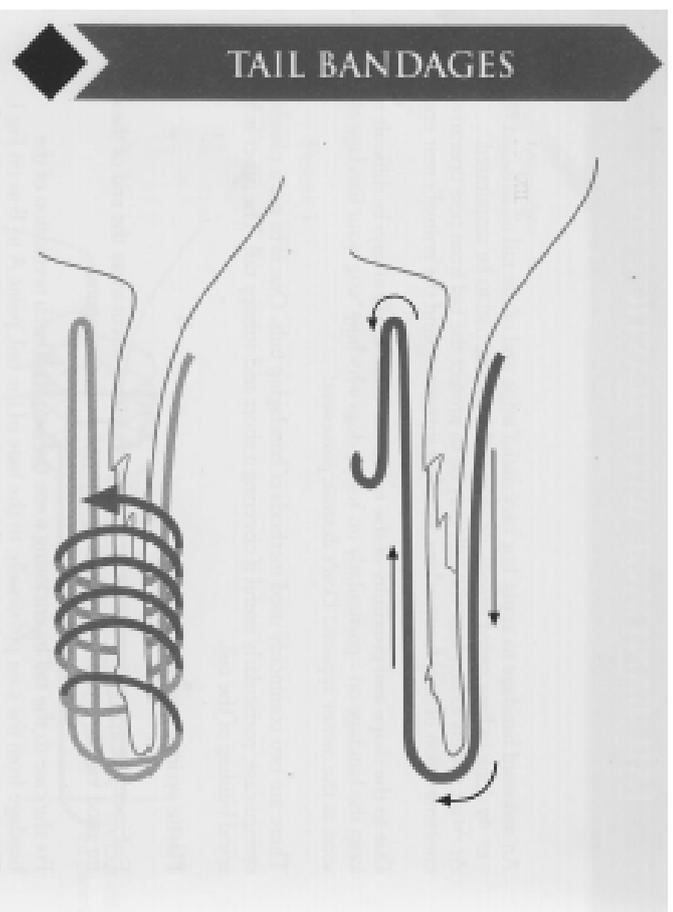
1. Using softban type bandage or cotton wool apply a padded layer—start from the top of the head, take the bandage down towards the front of the right ear and then under the chin to resurface at the left side in front of the ear. Continue over the top of the head towards the back of the right ear and down the right side of the head, underneath the chin until resurfacing at the back of the left ear and up the left side of the head. Continue with the "figure-of-eight" until there is adequate padding. (Ensure you can get two fingers under the dressing below the chin before moving on to the next layer).
2. Repeat a "figure-of-eight" dressing with a conforming bandage over the top of the padding layer as 1. (Ensure you can get two fingers under the dressing below the chin before moving on to the next layer).
3. Repeat "figure-of-eight" dressing with a cohesive bandage layer — e.g. vetwrap or elastoplast over the top of the conforming layer as 1. (Ensure you can get two fingers under the dressing below the chin).

### Warning

At all times check the bandage is not too tight under the chin as this could cause problems with breathing. Ensure you can get two fingers under the dressing. Remove quickly if there is evidence of discomfort.

## Tail bandages

Use to cover a tail injury whilst veterinary attention is sought (see illustrations left).



1. Clean the wound as much as possible. Apply a melolin dressing (shiny side down) or gauze swabs to wound.
2. Apply a thin softban type bandage/cotton wool layer from the top of tail base around the tail tip and back up the underside of the tail to the tail base then retrace back down towards the tail tip on the underside of the tail. (see left)
3. At the tip of the tail turn the bandage by 90° and wrap the bandage around the girth of the tail overlapping each turn or wrap by 50%. Continue until tail base is reached.
4. Ensuring that each layer is not too tight check that you can get 1 finger underneath the dressing—repeat step 3 with a conforming bandage layer and then a cohesive bandage layer (e.g. vetwrap). Extra care should be taken with the cohesive layer as it tightens on application.
5. Check regularly for dressing slippage or over-tightness. Remove quickly if there is evidence of discomfort.

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