



Emergency First Aid for Cats and Dogs

Training Guide



SART Training Media



Emergency First Aid for Cats and Dogs Training Guide

Prepared in 2005 by:

Dr. Amy Stone

Clinical Assistant Professor -- Small Animal Surgery, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine

Eric Hallman

Agricultural Safety Specialist,

Charles M. Brown

Information and Publications Specialist

Carol J. Lehtola

Associate Professor

Agricultural and Biological Eng. Dept.

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Updated in 2018 by:

Lawrence Garcia, MS, DVM

Clinical Assistant Professor in Shelter Medicine

Veterinary Community Outreach Program

University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

Amy Stone, MS, DVM

Clinical Assistant Professor - Small Primary Care and Dentistry

Department of Small Animal Clinical Services

University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine/IFAS

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SART Training Media are available for download from the Florida SART Web site <www.flkart.org>.

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About Florida SART

- SART is a multi-agency coordination group.
- SART is made up of over 25 partner agencies (state, federal and non-governmental organizations).
- SART provides preparedness and response resources for Emergency Support Function 17 [(ESF 17) Animal and Agricultural Issues].
- SART statutory authority
 - State Emergency Management Act (Section 252.3569, Florida Statutes)

SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animal and agricultural issues.

SART Goals

- Support the county, regional and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.
- Identify county resources available for animal and/or agricultural issues.
- Promote the cooperation and exchange of information of interested state, county and civic agencies.

Specific Learning Objectives

At the end of this training module, participants will be able to:

- Describe ways to prevent/avoid injury to yourself while assisting dogs and cats in an emergency (#1 Priority)
- Understand the stages of rendering treatment that represent best practice, including:
 - Describe how to survey and evaluate the emergency situation
 - List appropriate handling techniques
 - List vital signs of dogs and cats and how they are measured
 - List and recognize types of trauma
 - Recognize which first aid procedures are appropriate to type of trauma

Resources

The following are sources of additional information about the subjects mentioned in this introduction.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), established in 1863, is a not-for-profit association representing more than 76,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia, and uniformed services. Information on animal welfare and euthanasia can be found at:

www.avma.org

Animal Management in Disasters. Health, Sebastian E. Ph.D., DVM., Mosby, Inc, 1999.

Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock and Wildlife. Federal Emergency Management Agency publication, June 2002.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is a collaborative multi-state effort by Extension Services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters. This site serves primarily Extension agents and educators by providing them access to resources on disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery that will enhance their short- and long-term programming efforts.

Florida Agricultural Law Enforcement. The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement is dedicated to protecting Florida's agriculture and its consumers through professional law enforcement.

www.floridapl.com

Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

www.fdacs.com

Florida Animal Disease Control

www.floridapl.com

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)

www.floridapl.com

Florida Pet Friendly: Florida emergency shelters where you can stay with your pet if you must evacuate from your home during hurricanes or disasters.

<http://www.floridapetfriendly.com/pet-friendly-hurricane-shelters.htm>

Resources, continued

Guidelines for the Development of a Local Animal Care Plan in Emergencies, Disasters, and Evacuations. Heath, Sebastian E. Ph.D. D.V.M., Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine.

Homeland Security

<http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD), The information contained in NASD was contributed by safety professionals and organizations from across the nation and provides a national resource for the dissemination of information.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>

Animal Handling Safety

<http://nasdonline.org/>

Pet First Aid Kit – list of supplies can be found at the dog owners website.

- <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/fstaidk.html>
- <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/pet-disaster-preparedness-kit>
- https://www.aspca.org/sites/default/files/preparedness_for_pets_sep_2015.pdf
- <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/features/petsanddisasters/index.html>
- <https://www.ready.gov/animals>

State Veterinarian Office contact information for each state.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)

<http://www.usda.gov>

University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension publication re-source (EDIS) offers many fact sheets for veterinary and animal health issues.

<https://extension.vetmed.ufl.edu/>

University of Florida IFAS Extension Disaster Handbook.

<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>

Resources, continued

USDA–APHIS Veterinary Services publication, “Animal Health Hazards of Concern During Natural Disasters”(Feb. 2002). This publication aims to “describe some of the natural di-sasters that have occurred in the U.S. during recent years and to review some infectious and noninfectious hazards that are perceived to be related directly to natural disasters.”

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergingissues/downloads/hazards.PDF

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

<http://www.oie.int/>

Virginia Tech University Veterinary and Animal Resources

https://ouv.vt.edu/content/dam/ouv_vt_edu/sops/small-animal/sop-canine-restraint.pdf

Fear Free Pets

<https://fearfreepets.com/>

University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine

<https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/ringworm-dermatophytosis>

Merck Veterinary Manual

<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/>

ASPCA Animal Poison Control

www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control

American Veterinary Medical Foundation

<https://www.avma.org/Advocacy/StateAndLocal/Pages/euthanasia-laws.aspx>



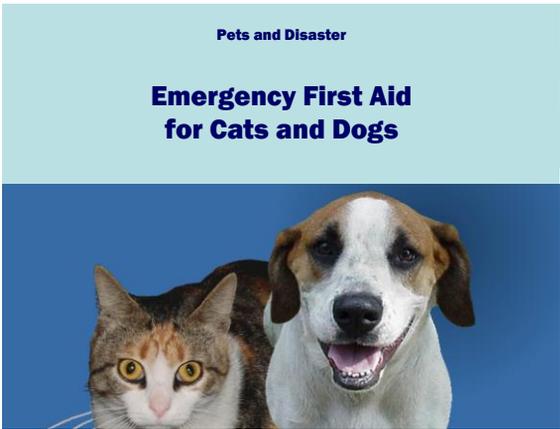
Emergency First Aid for Cats and Dogs

Appendix A - Training Slides



SART Training Media





Emergency First Aid for Cats and Dogs

Prepared by:
Amy Stone
Clinical Assistant Professor
Primary care and Dentistry
Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences
University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine
/ IFAS

Reviewed and Edited August 2018 by:
Lawrence Garcia, MS, DVM
Clinical Assistant Professor in Shelter Medicine
Veterinary Community Outreach Program
University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

Amy Stone, MS, DVM
Clinical Assistant Professor - Small Primary Care
and Dentistry
Department of Small Animal Clinical Services
University of Florida, College of Veterinary
Medicine/IFAS

 State Agricultural Response Team

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Learning Objectives

After completing this training activity, participants should:

- Describe ways to prevent/avoid injury to yourself while assisting dogs and cats in an emergency (#1 Priority)
- Understand the stages of rendering treatment that represent best practice, including:
 - Describe how to survey and evaluate the emergency situation
 - List appropriate handling techniques
 - List vital signs of dogs and cats and how they are measured
 - List and recognize types of trauma
 - Recognize which first aid procedures are appropriate to type of trauma



Primary Objective

- When assisting dogs and cats during an emergency situation
 - Your safety is ultimately the highest priority!!!
 - Do not endanger yourself or fellow first responders to attempt heroic rescue measures for animals



This Presentation is Intended for...

- Good Samaritans
- Emergency Medical Professionals
- First Responders
- No Matter the level of experience, remember to seek veterinary advice whenever possible!



Priority #1 -- Avoid Injury to Yourself

- Animals in emergency situations
 - Nervous, anxious, possibly injured
 - Unpredictable
 - Can be Dangerous!!!



Avoiding Injury to Yourself

- Dogs
 - Can bite causing crushing injury
 - Can scratch causing skin injury
 - Both bites and scratches can lead to bleeding and infection



Avoiding Injury to Yourself

- Cats
 - Can bite causing puncture, bleeding and serious infection
 - Scratch leading to bleeding and infection
 - They are very flexible and can be difficult to restrain without getting scratched or bitten
 - If you are scratched or bitten by a cat, contact a medical professional immediately!



Survey and Evaluate the Emergency



Survey the Emergency Situation

- Avoid becoming a victim; always survey for potential hazards
 - Oncoming traffic
 - Downed power lines
 - Hazardous materials
 - Dangerous or venomous wildlife



Survey the Emergency Victim

- Approaching an Injured Dog or Cat
 - Approach very slowly
 - Approach softly as to avoid startling the animal
 - Lower your body so that you are not towering over them – standing at full height could be interpreted as a threat
 - Do not make direct eye contact with the animal or stare directly



Survey the Emergency Victim

- Keep an eye on the animal's posture and expressions
 - Face, ears, tail, fur and body
- Allow the animal to smell the back of your hand
 - WATCH for reactions carefully
 - Never make quick or sudden movements



Emergency Triage

- When presented with the situation, the animal that is most critical but with the best chance of living should be attended to first



Warning Signs -- Dogs

- Body Language Signs
 - Growling
 - Hair standing up (back, shoulders)
 - Snarling
 - Tail may be wagging or tucked under the body
 - Ears straight back
- Submission
 - Dog crouches and assumes submissive posture (lays down with belly exposed), may urinate or lick profusely
 - A fearfully submissive dog can become a biting dog if you force the situation



Warning Signs -- Cats

- **Body Language Signs (Aggressive/Fearful)**
 - Ears flattened
 - Salivating or spitting
 - Back may be arched
 - Hair is standing on end
 - Hissing



Handling and Transportation



Handling Techniques

- **Gloves**
 - Thick gloves may cause a loss of dexterity with small animals
 - Latex or vinyl gloves should be worn at all times when handling injured animals
- **Dogs: Leashes (leather, nylon or canvas – no chain-link)**
 - Make a large loop by passing the end you normally connect to the collar through the hole in the handle
 - Standing just behind the animal or to the side, drop the loop over the neck and tighten



Handling Techniques

- **Cats: Towels or Blankets**

- Be aware of cat's position at all times
- Drop towel while standing well over cat
- As a last resort, grasp scruff of neck and wrap towel around cat's body



- **Cats or Small Dogs: Boxes**

- Cats will often crawl into them for comfort
- Then you can use the towel technique
- This may also work for small dogs



Handling Techniques -- Muzzles

- **May be dangerous to muzzle these situations:**

- Vomiting
- Coughing
- Having difficulty breathing



- **Muzzles may be necessary to treat injured animals**

- Use soft nylon, leather, or basket muzzles
- There are pre-made muzzles for cats and dogs with short noses



Making a Home-Made Muzzle

If needed you can make a muzzle that can be used for dogs with the exception of those with short noses.

1. Start with 18" of material, such as gauze, stocking, neck-tie, soft rope or a piece of soft cloth
2. Make the beginnings of a knot into a loop that can be placed over the animal's nose

Note: Keep enough space between you and animal's mouth so that the animal can't turn and bite you.



Making a Home-Made Muzzle

3. Tighten the loop down on top of the nose, but not so tight that the animal can't breathe
 4. Pull the ends of the material down each side of the face, cross under the chin and bring the ends back behind the ears
 5. Tie the loose ends back behind the ears
- Note: For short-nosed dogs and cats, after steps 1-5, take one end of the loop and pass it under the nose loop and tie to the other end around the neck to secure onto the nose



Making a Home-Made Muzzle

A slip lead can also be used to fashion a temporary muzzle. Adjust the slip lead snugly around neck behind ears. While securing the dog's head, wrap the loose part of lead two or three times over the dog's muzzle and secure the loose end, either by tying to the leash around the neck, or holding in hand securing dog's head and neck.

Source: https://ouv.vt.edu/content/dam/ouv_vt_edu/sops/small-animal/sop-canine-restraint.pdf



Restraint Techniques -- Dog

- **Headlock – Dog Standing**
 - Stand or kneel with your chest at dog's side
 - Place forearm under the dog's neck and bring the arm up the other side of the neck (around the head)
 - Lock your forearm under your head
 - Place the other arm over or under the animal's belly



Restraint Techniques -- Dog

• Lying on their side

- Stand with your body beside dog, facing dog
- Reach over dog and then back under dog; take hold of legs closest to your body
- Slowly pull the legs up and around the dog, forcing to lay on its side. As the animal drops toward the ground, take care not to let the head hit the floor
- Hold front and hind legs straight out, thus preventing animal from standing
- Use forearm closest to animal to push neck to the ground



Restraint Techniques -- Cat

• Lying on their side

- The same technique as for the dog with some variation
- Instead of pushing the neck toward the ground with the forearm, grasp the loose skin behind the neck (the scruff) and hold firmly

• Scruff in a sitting position

- Grasp and hold the back of the head behind the ears, gently and firmly
- Using the other hand, hold the cat's body in a sitting position



Warning: Some cats are better managed with minimal restraint. They can actually become harder to handle if restrained. The "Fear Free" movement recommends towel wrap restraint over scruff and stretch techniques. (<https://fearfreepals.com/>)



Carrying and Transporting -- Dog

• Small (less than 25 pounds)

- Dog can be carried in box or carrier
- Alternatively, the dog can be carried in a person's arms
 - Cradle the dog with your arms
 - Place your hand around the dog's front legs, with two or three fingers between the legs
 - Hold the legs as you walk
 - Keep the injured side against your body

• Large (25 pounds or more)

- Place one arm under or around the neck
- Place the other behind the rear legs or under the belly if you suspect a hind-limb injury



Carrying and Transporting – Cat

• Box or carrier

- Ideal way to transport a cat. They frighten easily and may jump away from you.
- A cardboard or small airline carrier with a sheet or towel over the top is the least stressful means for transporting a cat securely. It is very important to prevent cats from seeing other cats or dogs during transport. If a carrier is not available, wrapping the cat in a towel and supporting the cat's weight evenly is also an option. The transporter must monitor body language very closely to prepare and prevent potential escape. Utilizing the scruff of the neck as a form of restraint can lead to injury of the cat and handler so should only be utilized as a last resort. (<https://fearfreepets.com>)

• Arms

- Use the small dog technique
- Alternatively, hold the head behind the ears (gently yet firm) and support the cat's body with your other hand



Zoonoses

• Zoonoses are diseases of animals transmissible to humans

- Ringworm
- Scabies
- Rabies

• Be mindful of these while aiding animals in emergency situations

• In general, CPR is not likely to cause human illness



Zoonoses- Ringworm/Dermatophytosis

- The name "ringworm" comes from the most common appearance of a circular area of hair loss and scaling. The most common locations include the face, ears, feet and tail. However, ringworm can present with a wide range of appearances, including large areas of hair loss with or without crusts and exudate. Ringworm can also cause infection of the toenails and nail beds. Ringworm lesions may or may not be pruritic (itchy). There are other possible causes for all the types of lesions described above, so definitive diagnosis based on appearance alone is not possible. But if you suspect it, be sure to wear protective PPE such as gowns, gloves and change between animals handled.

Source: <https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/ringworm-dermatophytosis>



Zoonoses - Scabies

- *Sarcoptes scabiei* var *canis* infestation is a highly contagious disease of dogs found worldwide. The mites are fairly host specific, but animals (including people) that come in contact with infested dogs can also be affected. Dogs and cats will be very itchy with scabs and crusty lesions on the ear margins, chest, ears elbows and feet.

Source: <https://www.merckvetmanual.com/integumentary-system/mange/mange-in-dogs-and-cats>



Zoonoses - Rabies

- Most rabid animals show signs of central nervous system disturbance. The most reliable indicators are sudden and severe behavioral changes and unexplained paralysis that worsens over time. Behavioral changes can include sudden loss of appetite, signs of apprehension or nervousness, irritability, and hyperexcitability. The animal may seek solitude, or an otherwise unfriendly animal may become friendly. Uncharacteristic aggressiveness can develop, and wild animals may lose their fear of people. Animals that are normally nocturnal may be seen wandering around during the daytime.

Source: <https://www.merckvetmanual.com/dog-owners/brain-spinal-cord-and-nerve-disorders-of-dogs/rabies-in-dogs/cats>



Vital Signs of Dogs and Cats



Normal Vital Signs

• Heart Rates and Pulses

- Heartbeat can be felt on the left side of the chest just behind the bend in the left elbow
- If you place your hand over this area, you should be able to feel and count heartbeats



Normal Vital Signs

• Heart Rates and Pulses: Femoral or inner thigh pulse

- Place two fingers as high as possible on the inside of either back leg (use light touch)
- Feel for pulse in middle of leg about half way between front and back of leg (there is a small recess where the blood vessels run)



Normal Vital Signs

• Just below the wrist (carpus)

- Locate the area just above middle pad on underside of either front paw
- Lightly place middle and index fingers at this point and feel for pulse



• Just below the ankle (hock)

- Locate the area just above middle pad on underside of either rear paw
- Lightly place middle and index fingers at this point and feel for pulse





Normal Heart Rate

Dog	Small, miniature, or toy breed (30 pounds or less)	100 - 160 bpm
	Medium to large breed (over 30 pounds)	60 - 100 bpm
	Puppy (until one year old)	120 - 160 bpm
Cat		160 - 220 bpm

* bpm - beats per minute



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Breathing Rate

- Dogs
 - 10-30 breaths/minute
 - Up to 200 pants per minute
- Cats
 - 20-30 breaths/minute
 - Up to 300 pants per minute



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Panting



Worry if a cat is panting!!



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Body Temperature

- Use a pediatric rectal or digital thermometer
- Lubricate the thermometer with a water-based lubricant or petroleum jelly



Body Temperature

Normal body temperatures are:

Dogs	100.0 - 102.8 °F
Cats	100.5 - 102.5 °F

Temperatures under **100°F** and over **104°F** should be considered an emergency



Mucous Membrane Color



- Looking at the color of the oral tissues is a good way to determine if the animal is getting oxygen
- If the dog is pigmented, you can use the membranes in the lower eyelid by gently pulling it down
- The normal color is pink!
- Blue, pale, yellow, brick red or brown mucous membranes is an **emergency**



Capillary Refill Time

- This is the time that it takes for the gums to return to their normal pink color after you press them
- As you press, the membrane should turn white
- Then it should only take 1-2 seconds for pink color to return
- This is a good way to assess circulation
- If capillary refill time is more than 3 seconds, it is an **emergency**



Hydration

Pull up on the skin at the back of the animal's neck

It should go back into place immediately (1-2 seconds)

If not the animal is likely dehydrated.



First Aid for Dogs and Cats



Recognizing an Emergency

- Trauma (Falls, hit by vehicle, gun shot, other punctures/cuts)
- Difficulty breathing
- Seizures
- Excessive bleeding (cannot be stopped by applying pressure)
- Snake bites
- Heat stroke or hypothermia
- Poisoning
- Shock
- Burns
- Drowning
- Unconsciousness
- Others



Survey the Emergency Victim

ABCs of CPR

- A**irway Is there an open airway?
- B**reathing Is the animal breathing?
- C**irculation Is there a heartbeat and a pulse?



Survey the Emergency Victim



Survey the Emergency Victim

- Mucous Membrane Color ?
- Capillary Refill Time ?
- Any evidence of bleeding ?
- Animal's level of consciousness ?



Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

- Method to treat an animal that is not breathing and/or has no heartbeat
- It involves rescue breathing (mouth-to-nose resuscitation) *and* chest compressions
- The ABC's or basic principles (airway, breathing and circulation) must be followed

Warning: CPR does not always work even when performed by an experienced veterinarian. If your attempt fails, know that you did everything that you could to save an animal's life.



Establish an Airway



- Check to see if the throat and mouth are clear of foreign objects
- To clear the airway, gently tilt the head back and extend the neck
- Pull the tongue between the front teeth
- Use your finger to remove any material or liquid from the airway

Do not put your finger into the mouth of a conscious animal; you **will be bitten**



Establish an Airway



Breathing

- If the animal is breathing, let them continue on their own. If not, then do the following:
 - Medium and large dogs (over 30 pounds): seal animal's mouth and lips by placing your hands around its lips
 - Gently hold the muzzle closed
 - Cats and small dogs (under 30 pounds): your mouth will seal the mouth and lips – no need to seal with hands
 - Place your mouth over the animal's nose and forcefully exhale
 - Give 4-5 breaths rapidly, then check if animal is breathing
 - Continue up to 20 minutes. After each breathing session, check if the animal can breath without assistance



Artificial Breathing



Artificial breathing for medium or large dogs



Artificial Breathing



Artificial breathing for small dogs and cats



Breathing Rates

Use the following breathing rates:

Small dog or cat:	20 – 30 breaths per minute
Medium or large dog:	20 breaths per minute

Note: If you have access to oxygen for a distressed animal, use it.



Circulation – Small Dog or Cat

If no pulse or no detectable heartbeat, perform chest compressions

- Lay animal on its right side
- Kneel next to animal with chest facing you
- Place palm of one of your hands over animal's ribs at point where elbow touches chest
- Place other hand around back of and underneath animal
- Compress chest $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 inch (elbows should be locked)
- Alternate with breaths
 - 5 compressions for each breath and check for a pulse
 - If more than one person, each take a position and alternate at 3 compressions for each breath, then check for pulse



Cardiac Compressions



Cardiac Compressions

- **Medium to Large Dogs (30 – 90 pounds)**
 - Stand or kneel with the animal's back towards you
 - Extend arms at the elbows and cup your hands over each other
 - Compress the chest at the point where the left elbow lies when pulled back to the chest
 - Compress about 1-3 inches with each compression
- **Alternate with breathing**
 - If alone, do 5 compressions for each breath, then check for pulse
 - If two people, perform 2 – 3 compressions for each breath, then check for a pulse



Cardiac Compressions



Cardiac Compressions

- **Giant Dogs (Over 90 pounds)**
 - Use the same technique for medium to large dogs
 - If alone, do 10 compressions for each breath, then check for a pulse
 - If two people, do 6 compressions for each breath, then check for a pulse

Note: Do not assume there is no heart rate or pulse because an animal is not breathing. Always check for a heartbeat before starting chest compressions.



Shock

Shock results from decreased blood and oxygen flow to tissues and organs. Symptoms include:

- **Increased heart rate**
 - Pulse may be bounding or, in later stages, weak
- **Increased respiratory rate**
- **Delayed capillary refill time**
- **Decreased body temperature/cool feet**
 - If in septic shock (infection), temperature may be elevated
- **Weakness**
- **Disorientation**
- **Rescue workers must focus on stopping bleeding, warming the animal and the ABC's**



End Stage/Terminal Shock

- **When the body can no longer compensate for decreased oxygen and blood to vital organs**
- **Cardiac arrest likely to occur soon**
 - Assess ABC's of CPR
 - Control bleeding
 - Warm animal
 - Elevate hind end slightly (unless broken back is suspected)



Bleeding

- Check ABC's of CPR
- Apply direct pressure with gauze or cloth
- Add more cloth if material gets soaked
- **Do not wipe**
- Secure with tape



Bleeding Pressure Points

If previous techniques are not working, use bleeding pressure point technique

- Pressure points are areas from where the blood vessels travel
- Apply firm and even pressure to appropriate pressure points

Site of bleeding	Pressure point
Forearm	Armpit
Hind limb	Inner thigh
Head	Lower jaw Place three fingers at the base of the lower jaw on the same side and below where bleeding is occurring
Neck	Groove next to windpipe Place three fingers in groove next to wind pipe (round and hard) on side of neck where bleeding is occurring



Bleeding Points

- When using pressure points, you must release pressure every 10 minutes (for a few seconds)
 - Prevents permanent damage to limb
- When using head and neck pressure points, take care not to obstruct breathing



Choking

- Open animal's mouth and sweep from side to side to see if object can be dislodged
- If animal is small enough, suspend animal by the hips with head hanging down
- If animal is bigger, place your arms around animal's waist
- Close your hands together to make a fist just behind first rib
- Compress the abdomen by pushing up 5 times
 - Alternate with performing 5 breaths (any air around the object is better than none)
- As a last resort, administer a sharp blow to the back between the shoulder blades
 - Then repeat abdominal compressions



Choking



Fractures

- Lameness
- Swelling
- Abnormal limb position
- +/- bruising
- +/- protruding bone

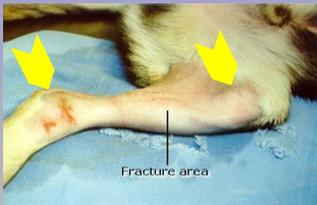


Fractures

- If a piece of bone is sticking out, wash the area with water or saline
 - Loosely place a dressing over the wound and wrap with tape
- If the animal can't be kept completely still for transport, a splint may be applied
 - Place a rigid structure along each side of the fractured limb (rolled paper, stick, pen, etc)
 - Hold with tape in multiple locations, but do not wrap too tightly
- Sedation may be needed for fracture stabilization



Fractures



Splinting should always include the joints below and above the fracture site. Otherwise, the splint can cause more harm.



Fractures



Fractures



If animal is struggling or you can transport it in a box or carrier, do not attempt to splint. Splinting can worsen a fracture.



Puncture Wound and Lacerations



- Remove foreign object
- Wash area with saline
 - Add one teaspoon of salt to a quart of warm water
- Dry foot
- Bandage



Wound and Lacerations

- Check ABC's of CPR
- Check for shock
- Apply sterile lube
 - To keep hair out of wound
- Clip hair around wound area
 - Clippers or razor blade
- Flush with saline
- Apply a bandage
- Sedation may be needed for wound care



Near Drowning



- Check ABC's of CPR
- For unconscious animals, hold the animal upside down and allow water to come out airway (nose or mouth)
- CPR as needed
- Treat for shock (keep quiet and warm)



Eye Injury

Foreign Objects in the Eye

- Swelling, squinting, pawing or obvious object
- Gently wash the eye with large amounts of tap water or sterile eye wash
- Inspect closely to confirm that all of the object has been removed



Eye Out of Socket



- Flush with sterile eyewash
- Cover the eye with a moistened gauze
- Blind the opposite eye
- Do not put a leash around the animal's neck
- Get veterinary attention as quickly as possible



Embedded Foreign Bodies

DO NOT REMOVE IMPALED FOREIGN BODIES

- Roll up gauze or other material that can be used to stabilize the object in place
- Use tape or an object that fits over the foreign body to make a brace to hold foreign body still
- If the object is long, make it shorter without removing it
- Get veterinary assistance as soon as possible



Foreign Bodies – Fish hooks



Do not pull or cut the line!

- Push the hook through the exit wound
- Cut the barb off using a wire cutter
- Pull the hook out from the direction that it entered the skin
- Treat the resulting puncture like a wound



Heat Stroke

- Collapse
- Vomiting or bloody diarrhea
- Excessive salivation
- Increased heart rate
- Fast or difficult breathing
- Red mucous membranes
- Capillary refill time may be prolonged or very quick
- Body temperature 104°F or above



Heat Stroke

- Move to cool or shaded area
- Soak in or with cool (**Not iced**) water
- Place towels around neck, head, abdomen and feet
- **Discontinue cooling once the temperature reaches 103°F**



Snake Bite



- ABC's of CPR/Check for shock
- Keep as still and calm as possible (carry the animal)
- **Do not cut wound or suck venom**
- **Do not apply ice or a tourniquet**
- Seek medical attention as soon as possible



Toxin Ingestion

Signs of potential toxin ingestion

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Seizures or abnormal mental state (hyperexcitable, depressed)
- Excessive salivation
- Ulcers in mouth
- Bleeding from mouth or any body cavity



Cat Fanciers' Association: CFA Health Committee



Seizures



- Animals may have seizures from toxin ingestion or other causes
- Protect from harm due to surroundings
- **Do not put hand in the mouth or try to pull on the tongue**



Toxin Ingestion



- Check the ABC's of CPR
- Check the mucous membrane color, capillary refill time, animal's mental state
- Check the surroundings for possible poison or toxin
- If possible, call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 1-888-426-4453 or www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control



Toxin Ingestion

If advised to induce vomiting, give household (3%) hydrogen peroxide orally (animals only!)

- 1 teaspoon per 10 pounds of body weight
- This can be repeated every 10-20 minutes for 3 - 4 doses
- Ipecac should not be used in dogs or cats



Burns



- Check for shock
- Flush chemical burns profusely with water
- Apply cool water or cool compresses to burned area
- Apply sterile nonstick dressing
- **Do not immerse in water or ice!**
- **Do not apply butter or ointment!**



Remember Emergency Triage

When presented with the situation, the animal that is **most critical** but with the **best chance** of living should be attended to first



Euthanasia



Treatment or Euthanasia

- Criteria to be included in the decision making should include
 - Pain and distress of the animal
 - Likelihood of recovery
 - Diagnostic information
 - Welfare for the animal, humane considerations



Euthanasia

- In some cases, sustained injuries may necessitate humane euthanasia
- Best performed by a veterinarian or under veterinary guidance
- However, such assistance may not be readily available – The person performing a physical method of euthanasia must be well trained for each technique that may be used

Source: www.avma.org/issues/animal



Important Considerations

- When euthanasia is necessary, always minimize animal distress as much as possible
 - The presence of humans may be reassuring for animals accustomed to human contact (penetrating captive bolt (dogs)/exsanguination in unconscious animals may be preferred)
 - For wildlife, human contact causes fear and greater distress (gunshot may be preferred – gunshot permits the least amount of human contact)
 - "Any law enforcement officer, any veterinarian, and any officer or agent of any municipal or county animal control unit or of any society or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or the designee of such an officer or agent may immediately destroy any domestic animal that is so injured or diseased as to appear useless and which reasonably appears to be near death by shooting the animal or injecting it with a barbiturate drug after a reasonable and concerted but unsuccessful attempt to locate the owner or owner's agent. Public or private agencies, animal shelters, or other facilities which are operated for the collection and care of stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals: Sodium pentobarbital, a sodium pentobarbital derivative, or other agent the Board of Veterinary Medicine may approve by rule shall be the only methods used for euthanasia of dogs and cats." (

Source: <https://www.avma.org/Advocacy/StateAndLocal/Pages/euthanasia-laws.aspx>



Aesthetic Concerns

Humane Euthanasia by Gunshot or Penetrating Captive Bolt

- Despite being humane, both are aesthetically displeasing procedures
 - Involuntary movement will occur
 - Exsanguination requires several minutes and is visually uncomfortable to observe
- These procedures should be conducted out of the public view



Confirmation of Death

- Death should be confirmed by evaluation of the following physical parameters over a period of several minutes
 - Lack of heartbeat
 - A pulse is normally not present under such circumstances
 - Lack of respiration
 - These may be erratic in an unconscious animal
 - Cardiac standstill via intra cardiac injection
 - Lack of blink reflex
 - Lack of movement over a period of several hours
 - The presence of "rigor mortis"



Unacceptable Methods of Euthanasia

- The following are forbidden under Florida Law 828.12
 - Manually applied blunt trauma to the head such as a large hammer
 - Injection of any chemical substance not labeled for use as a euthanasia agent
 - Injection of air into a vein
 - Electrocutation



Pets in Disasters



Where can pets go?

- **PetFriendlyTravel.com**
 - Pet travel and evacuation information
 - Lists shelters (by state) where people can stay with their pets if they must evacuate
 - Requirements for each shelter are also listed



Pet Disaster First Aid Kit

- Establish a disaster first aid kit before the need arises
 - <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/fstaidk.html>
 - https://www.aspc.org/sites/default/files/preparedness_for_pets_sep_2015.pdf
 - <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/features/petsanddisasters/index.html>
 - <https://www.ready.gov/animals>



Pet Identification

- Microchipping is the best way to reunite animals with their owners after a disaster situation



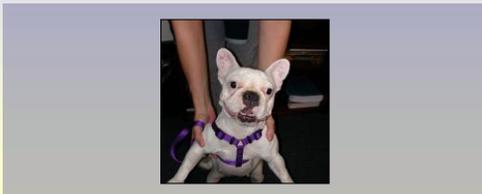
Closing Thoughts

- In an emergency, your safety is of the utmost importance
- Prevention and preparation are key
- Providing animals with adequate shelter, water, and food is critical in the immediate aftermath of an emergency
- Treating injured animals may not be feasible without help from trained professionals



References and Helpful Resources

- HSUS Pet First Aid. Bobbie Mammato, DVM, MPH. 1997
- Small Animal First Aid Presentation, Bay Area Animal Response Team. May-li Cuypers, DVM, DACVIM. 2007





Thank You!

SART Training Media