

# EMERGENCY SITUATIONS FOR VARIOUS SPECIES AND BASIC FIRST AID REQUIRED

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<b>EMERGENCY SITUATIONS</b>	<b>OBSERVATIONS</b>	<b>POSSIBLE CAUSE</b>	<b>FIRST-AID</b>
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>	Non-responsive Labored Breathing Uncontrolled bleeding	O <sub>2</sub> is absorbed through the skin but so are other things making it susceptible to bacterial, fungal & viral infections.	Have a Herpetologist vet on speed dial and... Flush skin with lukewarm water if you suspect chemicals. Apply direct pressure to severe bleeding. Flush with lukewarm water & antibacterial soap for cuts/scrapes, then rinse with diluted povidone-iodine solution (color of iced tea) followed by clean water. Apply antibiotic ointment & leave uncovered.
<b>BIRDS</b>	Open-mouthed abdominal breathing, tail bobbing, clicking noises  Bleeding Injury	Breathing difficulty – if good air supply, the cause could be mucus, seeds or dirt stuck in the nostrils.  Attacked by other pet or broken blood feather.	Wipe with a damp cloth or moist swab but do not pick at it as the operculum (body part inside the nostril) may look like an obstruction. Keep the bird calm and warm at 80°F and...obtain treatment from an avian vet.  Apply direct pressure with a gauze pad or cotton ball. Wash with hydrogen peroxide or Betadine®. Cat bites require antibiotics for the avian patient. If the blood feather won't stop bleeding, it needs to be pulled by you or an avian veterinarian at once.

<p><b>CATS</b></p>	<p>Confused, unstable, broken bones, blood or clear fluid coming from eyes, ears or nose, pupils non-reactive or one larger, crooked stance of head/neck, paralysis, breathing difficulty</p> <p>Bleeding injury, sore spot after a scuffle with another animal</p>	<p>High-rise Syndrome/Falls</p> <p>Puncture or bite wound</p>	<p>If not breathing/no pulse, administer CPR, otherwise treat bleeding injuries, splint, or just carefully transport to vet at once. Realize a conscious cat in pain may lash out so restrain to prevent the need for human first-aid.</p> <p>Flush with chlorhexidine and get to the vet for antibiotics. Puncture wounds close and if not tended to can result in an abscess.</p>
<p><b>DOGS</b></p>	<p>Dry heaves, foamy/ropey saliva, distended abdomen, pacing restlessly, moaning</p> <p>Swelling to face or limb, pawing, breathing difficulty</p> <p>Panting profusely, recently exercised and/or is in a hot environment</p>	<p>Bloat: A life-threatening condition where an enlarged stomach is caught in the intestines or flipped.</p> <p>Insect sting</p> <p>Heat stroke – can be life-threatening</p>	<p>Recognize signs &amp; get to veterinary help at once! A dog can die in 20 minutes or less as blood can't flow...</p> <p>If breathing difficulty, call ahead &amp; get to the vet at once! If swelling is minimal, apply a cold pack and administer 1 mg of Benedryl® per pound of the dog's body weight.</p> <p>Get the dog to a cooler location (shade, indoors, tile floor) and cool off from the paws up wetting paws, belly, pits &amp; groin. Take temp – if reaches 104°F PAWSitively get to vet even if temp comes down.</p>
<p><b>FISH</b></p>	<p>Gasping – frequently coming to the surface and “mouthing”</p> <p>Lethargy</p> <p>Open Wounds</p>	<p>Most issues are caused by poor water quality, inappropriate water temperature, non-compatible fish, or a non-gradual intro of fish to water.</p> <p>Fish aggression or scrapes on coral or aquarium ornamentation.</p>	<p>If the ammonia level is too high – do a partial water change. Temp too warm – Adjust &amp; add air stones for oxygen. Check if the filter functioning properly.</p> <p>Check temp, pH &amp; fix.</p> <p>Separate fish or remove items. Healthy fish in good water generally heal well without treatment, but species-specific meds are good to have on hand.</p>

<p><b>HORSES &amp; LARGE ANIMALS</b></p>	<p>Bleeding</p> <p>Rolling, biting, or kicking at belly, refuses to eat or drink</p> <p>Noxious rotting odor from the underside of a hoof</p> <p>Dehydration, colic, extreme diarrhea, excessive sweating, heat stroke, snake bite or multiple insect stings, poisoning or trauma</p>	<p>Cuts, Scrapes, Wounds</p> <p>Colic: A life-threatening blockage.</p> <p>Thrush: Fungal infection caused by standing in dampness.</p> <p>Shock: A life-threatening condition where extreme blood loss or poor circulation contributes to tissue death.</p>	<p>Apply direct pressure. Rinse with a hose to find the location of the wound if bleeding excessively. Wonder Dust® coagulant may help.</p> <p>If temp above 101°F or seems in pain, call the equine vet! Otherwise, walk the horse for 10-20 minutes then offer a small bit of feed. If he actually swallows and seems better, monitor &amp; give water, but do not feed for 12 hours.</p> <p>Wrap gauze soaked in bleach or thrush solution around the hoof pick and wipe the sides of “frog” (triangle) as if picking out the hoof. Get into cracks &amp; crevices to remove dead tissue. Repeat until the cloth comes out clean. Use ½ bleach ½ glycerin in subsequent cleanings so as not to dry out frog.</p> <p>Call vet! Keep the animal in a position where breathing is comfortable. Keep the airway open &amp; cover horse with a blanket to conserve body heat.</p>
<p><b>POCKET PETS/RODENTS</b></p>	<p>Not eating</p> <p>Cuts &amp; scrapes</p> <p>Bumblefoot (pain &amp; swelling to foot pads)</p>	<p>Staph infection</p>	<p>Such a varied group requires learning specific tricks to nursing little ones back to health.</p> <p>Vanilla Ensure® mixed with Critical Care® fed sparingly. Quarantine from others and seek vet care.</p> <p>Direct pressure for heavy bleeding or wash oozing with Betadine®, 3% Hydrogen Peroxide, or Epsom salt solution.</p> <p>Soak in Epsom salt solution and consult a vet.</p>

<b>RABBITS</b>	<p>Dangling limb, leg not moving or held at the wrong angle</p> <p>Bite wound</p> <p>Poisoning</p> <p>Not eating, hasn't pooped for 12 or more hours, grinding teeth, squinting eyes</p> <p>Excessive salivation; movement of ears in an attempt to cool self</p>	<p>Falls, jumps, struggling to get away. Stepped on, sat on or had something fall on.</p> <p>Wild animal or other family pet</p> <p>Ingestion of toxin or licked-off fur.</p> <p>Gastro-Intestinal (GI) Stasis: A life-threatening stoppage</p> <p>Possible heatstroke. The environment is more than 80°F.</p>	<p>Check gums for color, keep warm, and transport to lagomorph vet.</p> <p>Bites are serious in rabbits – direct pressure until you get to the vet. If not bleeding profusely, flush with warm soapy water and flush superficial wounds with a dilution of povidone-iodine &amp; water (iced tea color).</p> <p>Rabbits cannot throw up. Get to the vet at once!</p> <p>Listen for gurgling or absence of sounds in the stomach – both are not good! Take temp – if below 99°F, warm the rabbit &amp; get to the vet for SubQ fluids, pain relief &amp; motility drugs to get the pet's system moving.</p> <p>Spray with cool water and transport to vet. Overheating is serious in rabbits!</p>
<b>REPTILES</b>	<p>Cold to the touch</p> <p>Burns</p> <p>Lost appendage</p> <p>Cracked Shell</p>	<p>Hypothermic; Heat lamp not working.</p> <p>Contact with heat lamp.</p> <p>Grabbed by tail.</p> <p>Trauma</p>	<p>Increase housing to 85-90°F and monitor.</p> <p>Clean with chlorhexidine or diluted povidone solution (iced tea color once mixed with water) &amp; contact herpetologist vet. Burns can easily become infected and prove fatal in reptiles.</p> <p>Clean the wound at the stump as mentioned above for burns. Will most likely regrow but never look like the original.</p> <p>Clean the wound as above and contact vet. May be advised to cover with non-porous tape to protect internal organs.</p>