

# First Aid Tips for Pet Owners

## Basic First Aid

Depending on the situation, choose the appropriate first response steps:

❖ **Check for breathing.** If the animal is unconscious, grasp the pet's tongue and pull it outward and then clear the airway. Don't do this with a conscious, breathing pet—it might bite. If unconscious, start rescue breathing and CPR, if possible. Seek immediate veterinary care.

❖ **Control bleeding.** Apply direct pressure to the wound for at least 3 minutes. Do not remove a foreign body that may be impaled in your pet's skin as removal may cause more injury. Seek veterinary care.

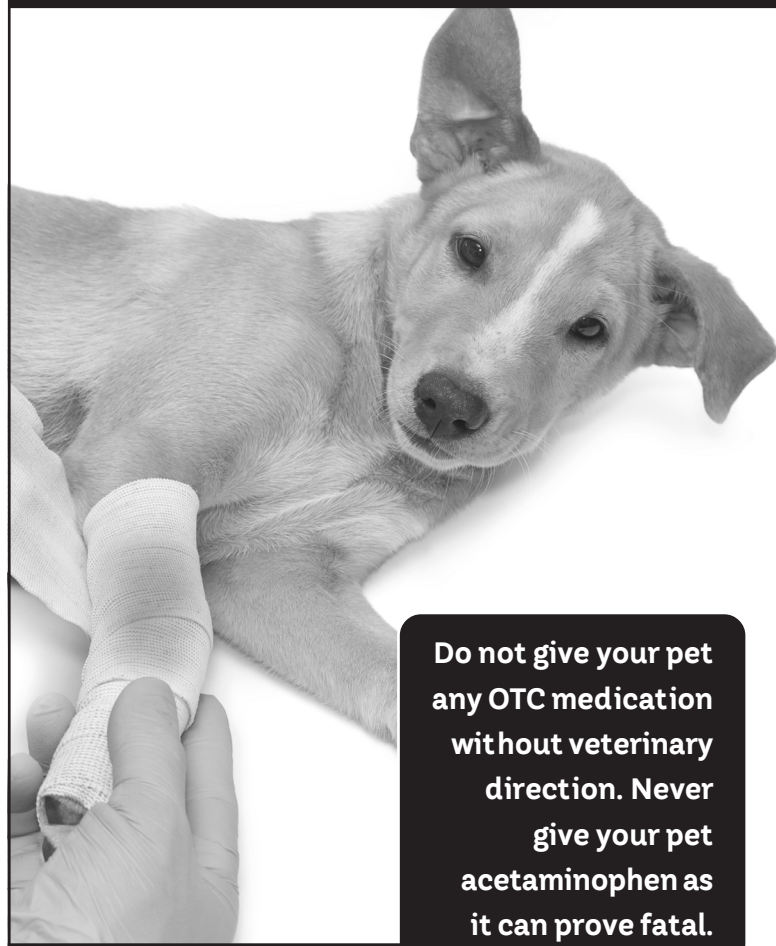
❖ **Immobilize limbs** that may be broken. Carefully transport your pet to veterinary care.

❖ **Flush a burn.** Use cool—not cold—water and seek immediate veterinary care.

❖ **Contact animal poison control** if you think your pet has ingested something toxic. Do not induce vomiting unless your DVM or poison control directs you to do so.

❖ **If it is having a seizure,** keep your pet safe. Clear the area of other pets and hazards. After the seizure, seek care.

❖ **Assume snakes are poisonous.** If your pet is bitten, try to photograph the snake and seek veterinary care.



**Do not give your pet any OTC medication without veterinary direction. Never give your pet acetaminophen as it can prove fatal.**

In the event of an accident, earthquake, fire, or other emergency, it may be necessary for you to provide first aid—immediate and temporary care given to your pet until it can receive veterinary care. Administer first aid and then, when safe to do so, transport your pet to your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary hospital.

## Recognizing an Emergency

Watch for:

- ❖ Crying, whining, or yelps
- ❖ Bleeding or obvious injuries
- ❖ Unusual odors in the pet's environment, such as gas, smoke, or chemical
- ❖ Unusual behavior, such as dizziness, confusion, vomiting, or diarrhea
- ❖ Signs of shock: rapid, weak, or absent pulse; unconsciousness; cool limbs; rapid, slow, or difficult breathing

## Don't hope. Plan.

For more disaster preparedness tips, visit [oregonvma.org](http://oregonvma.org).

Scan for a guide to animal rescue breathing and CPR.

