



Pet Safety + Pet CPR...tips from pet experts



As the holiday season approaches the risk of pets getting into trouble increases. Pet owners should be aware of how to proceed at home if ever an emergency arose. If a pet is in distress or is non-responsive, owners should first do a primary survey and start resuscitation if necessary. The next step is then to transport the pet to the nearest veterinary hospital [DO NOT call 911 for pet emergencies - call the vet!]. **It is a good idea to post your veterinary hospitals hours over the holiday season and to know where to take your pet when your regular hospital is closed.**

Thank you to my pet expert friends who contributed:
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If emergency...

Even well trained, calm animals may attack when injured or hurt - be careful! Once it's safe, follow the ABC's: **Airway** – sweep the mouth and pull tongue forward; **Breathing** – watch for the chest to rise and fall; **Circulation** – listen or feel for a heartbeat/pulse. If the animal has no heartbeat call emergency numbers and begin CPR. Practice finding your pet's heartbeat before an emergency occurs, so you know how. With your dog or cat lying on its side, bend their front leg. The spot where the elbow rests on the chest is where the heart beat can be most easily felt with the tips of your fingers.

first aid/ wellness scenario #22 Answers next bulletin

? Name 5 foods/ spices to help boost your immune system.

*Answers to last 2HEALTH Bulletin's scenario:

What is the Fire Safety acronym - to remember home fire safety tips?

F-flammables away	S-stop, drop, roll
I-inspect detectors	A-arson prevention
R-replace batteries	F-fire escape plan
E-extinguishers	E-eye on flames
	T-teach kids
	Y-your example

PET CPR

To begin resuscitation place the pet on their **RIGHT SIDE** and begin with a **BREATHE: medium to large dogs** - cover their nose with your mouth and use your hands to seal lips shut;



cats and small dogs - cover their mouth and nose with your mouth. Blow air in until the chest expands and then allow the pet to exhale. This should be done once every 4-5 seconds.

CHEST COMPRESSIONS: medium to large dogs - compress with interlocked fingers and straight arms over the widest part of the rib cage; **cats and small dogs** - place left hand over chest, behind elbow, with fingers underneath, thumb on top [so sternum or breast bone is in the 'crook' of the hand]. Then squeeze, with the desired effect to 'massage' the heart. You should compress the chest about 30% to be effective. Pets need approximately 80-100 compressions per minute.



Summary: 2 breaths and 15 compressions

Always seek veterinary attention immediately.

PET SAFETY

When dealing with animals it is important to know how to interact safely with them. All animals need to be treated kindly, but treating an animal kindly depends on what type of an animal it is. Our household pets, need to be treated gently with love and affection. When dealing with wild animals, treating them kindly means staying away so that the animal doesn't feel threatened. Pawsitively Pets reminds campers our number one rule: Don't touch or go near an animal you do not know. Whether this is someone's pet or an animal in the wild, always check with an adult before interacting with any animal. This will keep you safe and the animal safe. Remember that animals can't tell you when they are nervous or scared, so they will often show you by hissing, biting or scratching.



Top safety tips:

- ▶ Never tease an animal with food, or bother them when eating or drinking
- ▶ Always be gentle with animals, don't pull tails, ears, or poke in the eyes or face
- ▶ When an animal is playing with their toys or chewing a bone don't take them away or bother them
- ▶ Remember to move slowly around animals and use your quiet voices, and soft hands
- ▶ Never bother an animal when it is sleeping
- ▶ If an animal looks injured or sick – stay away. Animals can become agitated when they are not feeling well and may not act like themselves. Find an adult for help.

This bulletin is for information only. Please consult your local Veterinary Doctor or Pet expert for specific health issues.

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