

A Vet Would Know That

by Celeste Abell

First Aid Stocking Stuffers

If you are looking for a gift idea for the dog person who has everything, consider putting together a first aid kit as this year's holiday present. Surprisingly few of us have the basics assembled at home let alone as part of a mobile kit for when traveling to dog shows or visiting friends and family with our canine companions. The basic kit can be assembled with items readily available from local stores. The tablets and medications fit nicely into a small cloth cosmetic bag (which stays in my purse because the heat or cold fluctuations in a car can alter the chemical makeup of the drugs). The rest of the items which aren't affected by temperature go into a fishing tackle box or art supply organizer that can stay in the car all the time.

The temperature sensitive items

- Imodium (the basic green kind)
- Baby aspirin (buffered)
- Benadryl (25 mg tablets for stings)
- Kaopectate tablets maximum strength
- Metronidazole (an antibiotic that your vet can give you for traveling)
- A small bottle of Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting if needed)
- Several days worth of medications your dog is currently taking

The non-temperature sensitive components

- A bottle of saline (for cleansing wounds or eyes)
- A 3-6 ml syringe to administer the hydrogen peroxide
- Triple antibiotic ointment (for scrapes and cuts)
- Iodine Wipes
- Cotton balls and Q-tips
- White petroleum jelly (for keeping wounds moist)
- Styptic Pencil with case
- Instant Cold Pack
- Hydrocortisone acetate cream 1%
- Activated charcoal tablets
- 4"x4" Non-adhesive pads (to cover a wound)
- Non-stretch gauze (to hold a dressing in place)
- Adhesive tape (to hold the gauze in place)
- Rubbing alcohol (to rapidly cool a dog's body if they get overheated)
- Digital thermometer
- Two thin 12-inch wooden rulers (to act as splints)
- An utility knife (to cut the rulers to size)
- 3" ace self-adhering athletic bandage
- Scissors with a blunt tip
- Tweezers
- Hemostat
- Small magnifying glass
- Pen light
- Blanket
- Absorbent towels
- Several handkerchiefs/scarves (can act as a tourniquet or muzzle)
- Ziploc bags (sandwich and gallon)
- Non-Latex Gloves
- Clear plastic wrap (to cover a wound or create a pressure bandage)
- The dog's health record on paper, a copy of their rabies certificate and most recent vaccinations, plus your regular vet's telephone number and the phone number and address of 24-hour veterinary hospitals near where you'll be traveling.

- A compact canine first aid book such as *Emergency First Aid for Your Dog* by Dr. Tamara S. Shearer

Celeste Abell is not a veterinarian, but is working toward becoming one. If you have a question you want investigated, please email Celeste at avwkt@clientfirst.net. As a reminder, always check with your vet before adding or changing any aspect of care you give your Schnauzer.