

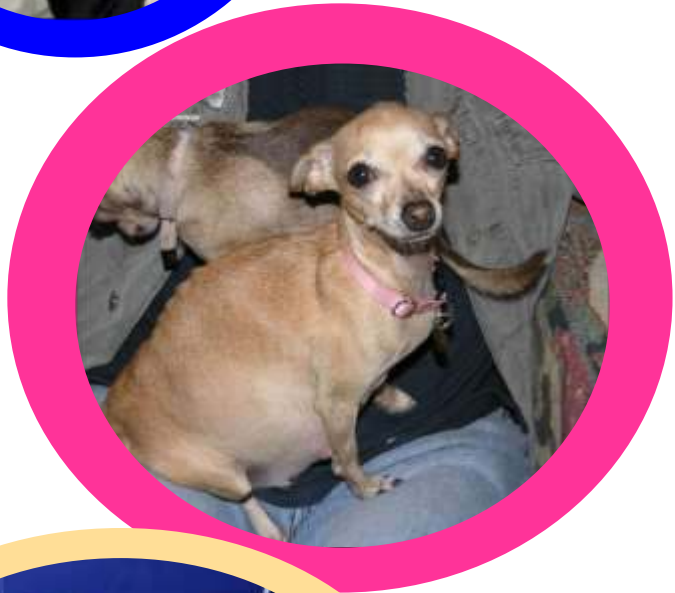
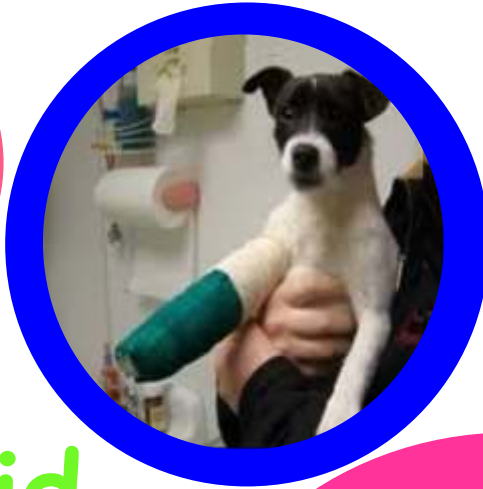
# First Aid for Dogs

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Officer, 2014

Please note that this resource should be reviewed, adapted and endorsed  
by each community's visiting veterinarian.

For more information about AMRRIC, please visit [www.amrric.org](http://www.amrric.org) or email  
[info@amrric.org](mailto:info@amrric.org)

# First Aid for Dogs



# Safety First

- Only give First Aid if it is safe
- Don't try to help if you think you might get bitten
- Give first aid in a safe place

If you are not sure: call a vet



- Always walk slowly
- Talk to the dog quietly
- Don't make eye contact with the dog
- Let the dog smell you

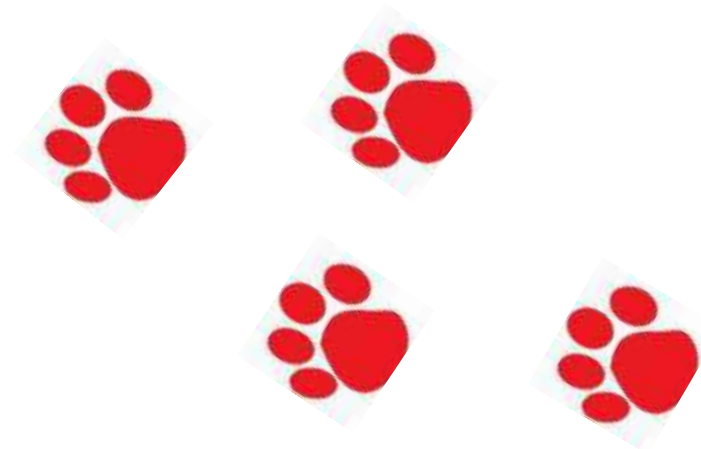


- Let the dog smell the back of your hand
- Stand still as the dog smells your hand



- Don't pat the dog on the head

## Getting Close to a Dog Safely



# Watch for signs they might bite



This dog is **scared**.

His ears are flat, he is bent down, his tail is down and he looks worried.

A scared dog may bite.

Be careful around a scared dog



This dog is **angry**.

The hairs on the back of his neck are up, his teeth are showing, his tail is up and his body is stiff.

An angry dog will bite.

Do not approach an angry dog.



# Holding Dogs Safely



A lead, muzzle or towel can be used to help control the dog

# How to make a lead



# How to make a muzzle





# Checking for signs of life

- Look and feel for breathing
- Look and feel for a heartbeat
- Check for a blink



# Other things to check

Can you see or feel any **broken bones** or **bleeding**?

- Be careful when checking for this. If the dog is in pain he or she may bite



Is he or she **too hot** or **too cold**?



The ears and feet may feel hot or cold if the dog is sick

Does he or she have enough blood?



White gums means it doesn't have enough blood



Red gums means it has enough blood

# What to do first?

**Get someone to help you** hold the dog



**Get the dog to a safe place**

- Away from other dogs
- Where they can't run away

**Check for bleeding**



- Push a towel on wound until bleeding stops
- Treat the wound using the steps in the *Bites, cuts, wounds* section.



**Call a vet**

Don't wait. Get advice on what to do early. If you can't get onto a vet, try looking at the other pages here

# What to do first?

## Check for other problems:

- Run your hands over the dog looking and feeling for problems.

*Be careful!*

He might bite when you get to a sore spot.



## Keep him or her quiet and warm

- Fill a bottle with warm water, and wrap in a towel to help stay warm

What might you find?



# Shock

**Shock** is when the dog doesn't have enough blood or water inside him or her

Dogs **hit by cars** or in bad **fight**s sometimes go into shock

Some things to look for that may mean a dog is in shock:

## **If you can't get to a vet:**

Keep him in a **quiet** place  
Check for **bleeding** and treat it  
Mix a tin of dog food with water  
until it's really runny. Let him **drink**  
it himself.  
Keep him **warm** and **still**

## **White gums**

**Weak**

**Wobbly**

**Panting**

**Stiff skin**

**Collapsed**





# Burns



Keep the burn under running **cold water** for 15 minutes to take the heat away



**DO NOT** put any cream on the burn

*Be careful.* Burns hurt a lot so the dog may bite.



# Bites, cuts, wounds



- Cut hair away from the wound
- **Wash** the wound clean with cool boiled salty water, then let it dry.
- **Honey, iodine** or **silvadene cream** can be held onto the wound with a **bandage**
- Fresh bandages must be put on daily
- Check every day for bandages being too tight or rubbing
- **DON'T** use **Dettol**. It's bad for their liver
- **DON'T** give them **Panadol** or **Nurofen**. It can make them sick.
- **Infected wounds will be red and swollen. It may also have pus. Infected wounds need Anti-biotics from the vet.**







# Sore eye



- Eyes can get sore because of allergies, infections, scratches, or things in the eye
- Flush the eye using **salty water** or a **cooled tea bag** from a freshly made cup of tea to wipe the eye



If the eye is sore for more than a few days it will need to **see the vet** for some eye drops or other treatment



# Toad Poisoning

Toads squeeze out a white toxin from glands behind their eyes. These toxins can make a dog very sick if it tries to eat a toad.

Some things to look for if you think your dog may have been poisoned by a toad:

**Drool**

**Shaking head**

**Vomiting or trying to vomit**

**Weakness**

**Has trouble breathing**

**Blue gums**

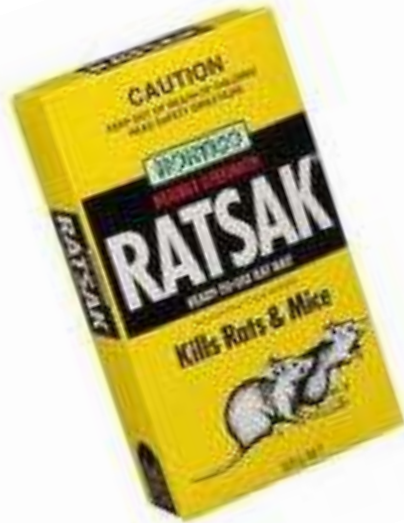
**Seizures**

Wash the dog's mouth out straight away with gentle running water to remove as much poison as possible



**If the dogs starts to have seizures, take it to a vet**

# Bait Poisoning



If a dog swallows rat poison it can become very sick and may die if not treated.

Signs of rat poisoning:

**White gums**

**Weakness**

**Fast heart rate**

**Blood in urine or poo**

**Bleeding from the nose**

**Drooling**

**Coughing**

**Cannot move**

**Seizures or twitching muscles**



If you think your dog has been poisoned try to make the dog **vomit**.  
Put half a teaspoon of salt on the back of the dog's tongue to help it vomit.

It needs to **vomit within 30 minutes** of eating the poison.

If it has been **longer than 30 minutes** or it **won't vomit** take the dog to the **vet**.

Even after vomiting, if the dog gets **sicker**, take the dog to the **vet**.

# Parvo

- Parvo is a **dog sickness**.
- It is caused by a **virus** that gets into the gut. The virus lives in the **ground**.
- It is mostly seen in **puppies** and **young dogs**.
- Dogs pick it up from the **ground** or from **other sick dogs**. It is very contagious and can **spread quickly**.
- The virus is too small to see.
- The virus eats the gut lining of dogs. This causes the inside of the gut to bleed. Bleeding in the gut causes the dog to **lose too much water** from its body. This is called **dehydration**.



## Signs of Parvo:

Diarrhoea (may have blood in it)  
Weakness  
Stopped eating  
Vomiting  
White gums  
Stiff skin  
Become cold to touch

There is no real treatment for Parvo.

Important that the sick dog has **water** to drink

You can also give it **Powerade** or **Gatorade** to drink. This will help put fluids back into its body.



Parvo can quickly spread to lots of dogs in a community. These dogs become carriers of the virus.



Woofy has Parvo. He poos on the ground. Parvo virus in the poo is then spread to the ground.



Max eats Woofy's poo swallowing the Parvo virus. Parvo is now inside Max's gut.



Max plays with Banjo. Max licks Banjo passing the Parvo virus to him in his saliva. Parvo is now inside the gut of Banjo





# First Aid Kit



# Bandages



## **Gauze/Woven Cotton Bandage.**

Light and breathable, non-stick.

First layer to hold creams, ointments and cotton wool on.

Needs a sticky layer to hold it on



## **Cotton Wool Bandage.**

Thick and breathable.

Middle layer for padding and support, and to absorb wound ooze.

Do not put straight onto a wound as it will stick.



## **Vetwrap**

Light and breathable, and sticky but easy to undo.

Last layer to hold everything together and prevent chewing.

OR

## **Elastoplast**

Tough and sticky. May need to be cut off.

Last layer to hold everything together and prevent chewing

# Remember....

- Safety first
- Get help
- Call a vet







Animal Management in Rural and  
Remote Indigenous Communities