



Foster Dog Health & First Aid

Everyone should have a dog first aid kit in their home to use in emergencies or accidents. A carefully stocked dog first aid kit will put all the materials that you may need in one place and at your fingertips. The last thing you want is to be searching for medical supplies when your pooch has been injured.

Practical Dog First Aid Kit - Small pet taxi to store all of your items

- Bandage material
- Gauze pads
- Triple antibiotic ointment
- Tweezers
- Cloth & paper towels
- Thermometer
- Collar
- Slip leash
- Cotton balls/pads
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Bandage scissors
- Oral syringe
- Exam gloves
- Muzzle
- Clip leash

Items that expire: ▪ Hydrogen peroxide ▪ Antibiotic ointments

Common Ailments

Urinary Tract Infection: - Urinary tract infections are especially common, most often seen in female dogs, and even more frequent following a spay procedure. They are relatively easy to detect and treat.

Signs: Blood in the urine • Straining to urinate • Increased frequency of urination

At the first sign of a possible UTI, please contact terry@carebullies.org, as UTIs are usually treated with antibiotics that CCB can provide you with.

Snake Bites

What NOT to do:

- Do NOT use a tourniquet. A tourniquet can restrict the circulation to the area causing more tissue damage than the bite itself.
- Do NOT cut over the wound.
- Do NOT try to catch that snake that bit the person or pet. You can get bit.
- Do NOT cut and try to suck the venom out of the bite. Human saliva contains bacteria that can cause wound infections.
- Do NOT apply ice to the area.

What TO DO:

- DO limit your pets activity. Keep your pet as calm and quiet as possible. This will help slow the venoms access to the circulation.
- DO get your pet to your veterinary clinic or veterinary emergency clinic as soon as possible. Even nonvenomous bites can cause tissue damage and infection. For venomous bites, the use of Antivenin is controversial and not recommended for most copperhead bites. Your veterinarian will determine if it is recommended for your pet.

At the first sign of a snake bite, please contact terry@carebullies.org, to discuss veterinary options. In case of an emergency, you may also call Terry at (336) 803-5396.

Bee Stings

Some dogs are allergic to bee stings. Dogs most commonly develop swollen faces and hives. If your dog is known to be allergic to stinging insects, your veterinarian may recommend that you administer Benadryl® (diphenhydramine) in the early stages of the allergic reaction. Unfortunately, oral medication may not be sufficient, and you will have to take your dog in for examination and treatment.

Severity of reactions:

- **Mild** - Reactions include fever, sluggishness, and loss of appetite. Mild reactions are probably also related to an immune reaction from a vaccination. They usually resolve without treatment.
- **Moderate** - Urticaria is a moderate vascular reaction of the skin marked by hives or wheals and rapid swelling and redness of the lips, around the eyes, and in the neck region. It is usually extremely itchy. Urticaria may progress to anaphylaxis and is considered life-threatening. This is the most common reaction in dogs.

- **Severe** - The most severe reaction is anaphylaxis, a sudden, severe allergic response that produces breathing difficulties, collapse and possible death. Symptoms usually occur within minutes following an insect bite or sting and proceed rapidly. Symptoms usually include sudden onset of vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, rapid drop in blood pressure, swelling of the larynx leading to airway obstruction, seizures and cardiovascular collapse or death. This reaction is life-threatening for your dog.

Treatment:

Anaphylaxis is an extreme emergency and it occurs soon after being stung. Your veterinarian will begin immediate emergency life support. This will include establishing an open airway, administering oxygen, and intravenous fluids to increase blood pressure. He will probably administer drugs such as epinephrine and corticosteroids. Animals that survive the first few minutes usually return to normal health.

At the first sign of a bee sting, please contact terry@carebullies.org, to discuss if veterinary consultation is necessary. In case of an emergency, you may also call Terry at (336) 803-5396.

Intestinal Parasites

Roundworms - Resembling **cooked spaghetti** and whitish in color, roundworms live in your dogs intestine. They can reach up to 8" in length, and feed off of your dogs food. Round worms shed eggs continually.

At the first sign of roundworms, please contact terry@carebullies.org, as CCB can provide you with the appropriate medication.

Tapeworms - Transmitted to dogs who ingest fleas. The dog sheds segments of the tapeworm containing the eggs in its feces. These segments are flat and move about shortly after excretion. They look like **grains of rice** when dried and can be found either in the dog's stool or stuck to the hair around his anus. Tapeworms cannot be killed by the typical over-the-counter wormer.

At the first sign of tapeworms, please contact terry@carebullies.org, as CCB can provide you with the appropriate medication.

Giardia - The symptoms are typical of several diseases, but contact with dirty or potentially contaminated water, or with dogs showing similar signs, Giardiasis

should at least be suspected. Large populations of Giardia can interfere with the absorption of food and produce feces that are soft, light-colored, and greasy.

If you suspect Giardia, please contact terry@carebullies.org, as CCB can provide you with the appropriate medication.

Heartworms

Heartworms have the potential to cause serious illness. All it takes is one bite from a mosquito carrying a heartworm larva. In time, the larva develops into a full-fledged adult worm, finding a home in the arteries of the lungs. Without treatment, dogs with heartworm disease will become lethargic, lose their appetite and begin to have difficulty breathing. Heart failure can also occur.

CCB provides monthly heartworm prevention, which is mailed to foster homes around the first week of every month. If you have question regarding your foster dog's heartworm meds, contact meredith@carebullies.org.

Skin Issues

Fleas - Some animals may have fleas without showing discomfort, but an unfortunate number of dogs become sensitized to this saliva. In highly allergic animals, the bite of a single flea can cause severe itching and scratching. Fleas cause the most common skin disease of dogs – Flea Allergy Dermatitis.

Though the itching component to flea-allergy can be treated with antihistamines, the best approach is to kill the flea and prevent its return. CCB provides monthly flea prevention, which is mailed to foster homes around the first week of every month. If you have question regarding your foster dog's flea meds, contact meredith@carebullies.org.

In tough cases, you may have to wage all-out war to conquer fleas. This means a comprehensive flea control program, requiring treatment of the pet, the pet's bed, the yard and the house. A variety of sprays, dips, powders, foams and oral products may be recommended.

Demodectic Mange - Demodectic mange is caused by a tiny mite that cannot be seen without the aid of a microscope. This mange strikes puppies from three to 12 months old. The demodex mite is commonly present in the pores of puppy

skin and usually does not cause symptoms, and it not at all certain what causes them to activate. The mites can produce a substance that lowers the dog's resistance to them and make use of an opportunity to multiply.

It's also possible that some lines of purebred dogs carry lowered resistance to the mites, and that stress can trigger an active infestation. In any case, demodectic mange symptoms include thinning of the hair around the eyes and mouth and on the front legs that evolves into patches of hair loss approximately one inch in diameter. This mange may correct itself within three months or may require treatment.

However, demodectic mange can also begin as a localized infestation and develop into a generalized case with multiple hair-loss sites on the dog's head, legs, and body. This is a far more serious condition and requires veterinary attention. The dog's skin is sore, crusty, and oozing; the hair follicles are clogged with mites and debris. Treatment is extended and requires bathing in medicated shampoo and application of an insecticide to kill the mites.

In most cases, dogs that enter our program with symptoms of mange usually have a mild case that clears up on its own within a few months, thanks to proper nutrition and consistency. If you are seeing a previously unmentioned case of mange in your foster dog, please contact terry@carebullies.org to discuss the best course of action.

Skin Allergies

The following is a list of common diagnoses in animals with itchy, red, crusty, scaly skin. Bully breeds are especially prone to skin allergies, especially in white dogs.

- Flea bite hypersensitivity - Animals with this type of allergy can have severe dermatitis even with a low flea burden. In some cases the fleas are not easily identified on the patient. This usually occurs in 3-6 year old animals. The distribution of skin lesions is predominantly on the back end of the pet.
- Atopy - This condition is also known as allergic inhalant dermatitis. Most patients with this disorder are 1-3 years of age. There are known breed predispositions in dogs. The face, feet and armpits are the areas of the body most commonly affected by atopy. As the disease progresses, the signs may spread to the whole body.
- Food allergy - Animals may develop an allergy to a certain component of their diet. This can occur at any age, and often occurs after an animal has been eating

the diet for an extended period of time. In addition to dermatitis, some pets with food allergies will also develop vomiting and diarrhea.

- Contact allergy or irritant - Animals can be allergic to fibers in a carpet, finishes on a floor or topical shampoos or medications. Additionally, some substances may cause irritation even in animals that do not have an allergy. The dermatitis is often confined to ventral areas (along the underside of the body) or areas where there is a sparse haircoat.
- Pyoderma - A bacterial skin infection can occur alone, or in conjunction with allergic dermatitis. Many animals develop secondary pyoderma from chewing and licking at their skin. The normal skin has many bacteria, which will colonize an area of inflamed or irritated skin and worsen the clinical signs.
- Yeast infection - Infection with skin yeast can also occur secondary to allergy. Many patients (especially dogs) will have yeast and bacterial ear infections secondary to allergies.

If you suspect a skin issue, please contact terry@carebullies.org, to discuss possible treatments and solutions.