

The Official Dog Coat & Skin Care Guide

**A comprehensive how-to guide
to help you take better care of your
canine's coat and skin.**

**- Brandon Roe -
www.K9Kourier.com**

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Official Dog Coat & Skin Care Guide

Table of Contents:

Featured Articles:

#1: Have An Itchy Dog? Consider These Grooming Tips Before Turning To Chemical Treatments	page 4
#2: How To Use Regular Grooming To Keep Your Dog Healthy	page 5
#3: Time For A Dog Bath? Dog Bathing Tips For You And Your Dog	page 7
#4: Basic First Aid For Your Pet: What To Do In Case Of Emergency – Part I	page 13
#5: Basic First Aid For Your Pet: What To Do In Case Of Emergency – Part II	page 16
#6: Basic First Aid For Your Pet: What To Do In Case Of Emergency – Part III	page 19
#7: What You Should Have In Your Dog's First Aid Kit	page 21
#8: How To Care For Your Dog's Feet And Save On Vet Bills Down The Line	page 24
#9: What To Do If Your Dog Has Skin Problems	page 26
Special Gift!	page 28
<u>Special Announcement</u>	page 29

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Article #1:

Have An Itchy Dog?

Consider These Grooming Tips Before Turning To Chemical Treatments

Alexandra DeBoer

Many dogs today suffer from itchy skin caused by a variety of factors. Dogs actually have more sensitive skin than humans, and are often exposed to a variety of irritants in their environment. These grooming tips may help alleviate your dog's constant itching.

Brushing your dog daily will remove pollens, grasses, and other outdoor irritants as well as stimulating the skin's circulation and preventing matting. Brush carefully and down to the skin, taking care not to tug on tangles, and using a soft bristle brush on sensitive areas.

Bathing should also be done on a monthly basis, following a thorough brushing. Use a natural, low lather, low irritant shampoo, wet your dog down thoroughly with lukewarm water, and apply the shampoo using your hands. Avoid getting water or shampoo in his eyes and ears, and lather all over, right down to his skin, then rinse thoroughly. Shampoo residue is a major cause of skin irritation for dogs. After rinsing, towel dry your dog, and avoid using any coat finishers or blow dryers, which can also cause skin irritation in a sensitive dog.

Grooming is essential for a dog's skin health, helps you identify skin problems early on, and is a great way for you to bond with your dog as well!

About the Author:

Alexandra DeBoer is the creator of a low-lather shampoo line for sensitive dogs. You can learn more about her company at: www.barknbath.com or send an email tobow-wow@barknbath.com



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Article #2:

How To Use Regular Grooming To Keep Your Dog Healthy

Terrie Simpson

The grooming procedure is not only a relaxing way to bond with your dog, it is also known to be stress buster for the owner. It has been rumored that people who have dogs have lower blood pressure. Before embarking on any grooming tasks such as nail clipping, flea dipping, bathing, trimming, cleaning the eyes, ears, mouth and teeth, or anal gland expression always consult a professional. Many reputable breeders, groomers and veterinarians will give basic instruction to a new owner to help maintain the health and appearance of their new companion.

Most owners, especially of long coated dogs take their pet to a professional for grooming. All dogs including short-coated breeds require some form of regular grooming. Grooming can be done professionally, but the benefits of learning some basic grooming techniques are bountiful.

Grooming tools should include dog nail clippers, a pair of blunt nose scissors for long coated dogs, a comb, and a brush suitable for the length of the dogs hair. Plenty of patience and TLC are also required.

Starting your dog on a regular grooming routine should be introduced by gradual short sessions. Try not to frighten the dog by forcing the issue. As the dog becomes relaxed with the routine, the sessions can be lengthened and other aspects introduced.

Brushing is an easy routine to start and it has many benefits. In addition to having a dog with a shiny, mat free coat, it removes loose hairs that might otherwise end up on your clothes, furniture or carpet. While brushing the dog the owner can check the skin for various skin disease, lumps, hot spots, fleas and ticks.

Depending on the breed, types of exercise, and whether the dog is an indoor or outdoor dog, bathing requirements will differ. Bathing too frequently will remove essential natural oils and dry the skin. Check with a professional for recommendations for your specific breed of dog.

Nail trimming is another grooming technique which is beneficial for an owner to practice. Before attempting to cut your dogs nails, it is a good idea

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to get professional instruction. Untrimmed nails can ingrow, curl down into the pads, and cause the toes to spread making it difficult for the dog to walk. Long nails can scratch the floor, people, and tear furniture and carpet. Most dogs and their owners are quite nervous about clipping the nails. Clip only a little at a time, being careful not only to cut into the vein. Cutting into the vein not only hurts the dog but will also cause a lot of bleeding.

Grooming methods, tools, and other aids will vary depending on the proficiency of the owner, the breed of dog, and the situation for which the grooming may be necessary. This column touches only on basic items. It cannot be stressed too lightly that a new owner should seek professional help before embarking on anything new with their dog, be it grooming or exercise.

About the Author:

Terrie Simpson has been involved in the dog world for over 28 years and has achieved numerous awards with her Springer Spaniels in tracking and obedience. Over that time, she has amassed a good amount of knowledge about how to keep a dog healthy. She is now happy to give back by sharing her experience with other dog owners.



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Article #3:

Time For A Dog Bath?

Dog Bathing Tips For You And Your Dog

Teresa James

Cleanliness and proper grooming can be very important to the continued good health of our beloved pets. But bathing our puppy or adult dog can often prove to be a challenge. There are many questions, myths and opinions floating around when discussing the best care for different dog types and temperaments. Check out these dog bathing tips to get some great ideas so you'll be prepared for your next dog bath and grooming session.

How often should you bath your dog?

How often your pet will need a dog bath will depend on the breed and what type of activities the dog is involved in. It's best to bathe your dog only when your dog is really dirty. Just use your nose – that tell tale doggy smell will let you know it's time for a bath.

If a dog is bathed too often the skin will be stripped of its natural, protective oils. This will result in dry itchy skin, which will cause your dog to scratch, further irritating the already sensitive skin. If you need to bathe your dog more frequently make sure to use a pet shampoo that will also moisturize your dog's skin. You may also want to follow up with an after bath pet coat conditioner specifically formulated for dry skin.

Where's the best place to bath your dog?

In warm weather you can bathe your dog outside. Pick a place that will not turn to mud when it gets wet. It's a good idea to have a washtub large enough for your dog to stand up in and fill it with a few inches of water. Water straight from a garden hose may start off warm, but usually gets cold very fast. If your dog starts to resist and shiver, as the water gets colder, you may want to consider another option.

Many pet owners have overcome this problem by purchasing a raised dog bath. This convenient, back-saving dog bath is often used with a water temperature mixer valve assembly that completely solves this problem. With the proper equipment set up you'll be able to save your back and control the water temperature of your dog's bath. Some temperature mixer valve

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assemblies hook up to your existing washing machine water supply. At bath time just connect an ordinary garden hose to the valve assembly and run it outside to the bathing area. This convenient type of back-saving dog bath can even be used for bathing your dog inside.

If you choose to bathe your dog inside, regulating the water temperature shouldn't be a problem. But deciding where to bathe your dog might be. Small dogs and puppies can usually be bathed easily in a sink or a washtub. For bigger dogs you will need something bigger like a bathtub or a large shower stall. And of course, the bigger your dog is the bigger the potential hassles.

Are you tired of chasing and wrestling with your dog at bath time?

Many dog owners solve this problem by purchasing a raised dog bath. An ergonomically designed dog grooming bathing tub elevates your dog to a level that's comfortable for you and keeps your dog securely contained, taking the hassle out of washing your dog. You'll get the job done in half the time, save your back and stay dryer. The raised dog bath that is available in most pet shops and online stores will also save your dog stress at bath time. No more slipping and sliding. Your dog will really feel secure standing on the padded non-slip surface. This type of raised dog bath has been recommended by Dog World Magazine in their "Notable Products for the New Millennium".

Does your dog tend to get away from you during a bath?

Bathing your dog is a challenging, but essential, part of dog grooming. It's funny how your dog will cleverly evade you when you try to get him into a dog bath, but will be just as determined to get past you when you don't want him to jump into the water at the beach.

If you're washing your dog in a room with a door make sure to close it so that your dog will not see an escape route or get very far if he prematurely gets out of the bath. This way you'll have an easier time getting him back in the tub to finish the job. It can be a challenge bathing a dog that's wiggling around but the challenge gets a little tougher when your dog is an escape artist. If your dog takes any opportunity to get away from you at bath time you may want to consider restraining your dog.

Restraints are used during bath time to avoid injury to you as well as your pet. Some pet bathing tubs come with restraints included. With these your dog will be safely and securely restrained and you will be able to give your dog a quick and hassle-free bath.

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Is your dog slipping and sliding in the bath?

Slipping and sliding can be the most stressful part of bath time for a dog. Put a rubber mat down on the bottom surface of the tub to prevent your dog from sliding and getting hurt. A sure-footed dog will be less resistant and much more at ease during bath time.

Things to have on hand at bath time:

- ✓ **Raised Dog Bath**
This is a fantastic idea for a dog bath. It's ergonomically designed for both you and your dog's comfort. Your local pet groomer is likely to have just such a bathing station set up in their shop. If you're thinking about buying a tub or basin to bathe your dog in, ask them if you can check out their tub set up. If you have the room or more than one dog, you may find it worthwhile.
- ✓ **Pet Shower or Plastic Pitcher**
A pet shower is great, but if that's not possible make sure you have a large plastic pitcher for wetting and rinsing your dog.
- ✓ **Drain Screen**
Make sure to protect your plumbing from hair clogs with a simple to use drain screen.
- ✓ **Cotton Balls**
Cotton balls can be placed in each ear to prevent water from running into your dog's ears.
- ✓ **Pet Shampoos**
There are many different pet shampoos each formulated to work on problems such as dry itchy skin, inflamed or dry scaling skin, fleas & ticks, doggy odor, skunk odor, abnormal shedding, quick rinsing for dogs that don't like to take a bath, whiteners for white coats, color intensifiers for dark coats, and coat shine to bring out the natural luster of your dog's coat. You may want to try a hypoallergenic shampoo/conditioner that will gently clean and conditioner your pet's coat in one step.
- ✓ **Coat Conditioners**
There are many pet coat conditioners that will help manage and or improve the appearance of your dog's coat like crème rinse, grooming spray, after bath dry skin treatment, and herbal mist conditioner that will soothe, re-moisturize and detangle your pet's coat.

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✓ **Pet Drying Towels**

If you want to get your dog dry faster check out a specialty pet-drying towel. Some are available that will absorb 10 times its own weight in water!

✓ **Eye Protective Gel**

Are you concerned about shampoo making its way into your dog's eyes? Just put a little protective eye gel in each eye just before bath time to prevent burning and redness.

✓ **Ear Drying Solution**

If your dog is prone to ear infections make sure you have some ear-drying solution on hand. Using an ear drying solution will assure that the ear canal is nice and dry after bathing.

✓ **Brushes/Combs**

There are many different styles and sizes of traditional dog grooming brushes and combs that you can choose from. If your dog has very sensitive or irritated skin you may want to consider a higher quality brush that will not scratch the skin or aggravate existing skin irritations.

✓ **Pet Dryer**

If your dog has a thick, long or double coat it's best to use a pet dryer. Unlike "people" hair dryers, pet dryers are designed to use less heat and more air volume so they quickly and safely dry a dog without damaging the coat or burning the skin. If you use a "people" blow dryer be very careful since you can easily burn your pet!

✓ **Plastic Bucket**

It's very convenient to have a waterproof container that will keep your dog grooming supplies close at hand.

Remember to get all your dog grooming supplies ready before hand
and let your dog sniff everything.

Why you should brush your dog thoroughly before bathing.

Depending on the type of coat your dog has you may need an assortment of grooming brushes and combs to properly care for your dog's skin and coat. Before you bathe your dog it's always a good idea to brush your pet's coat thoroughly to remove any tangles or matted areas as well as any other foreign debris. Many dog owners know first hand that if they don't spend time removing old, established tangles and mats before bathing many times they just get worse. If your dog's coat tangles and mats easily make

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sure to look for shampoos and conditioners that are formulated to prevent and break up mats.

If your dog has gotten into any sticky or gooey substances like tar or gum never use commercial solvents or industrial cleaners on your dog's coat. Many of these are toxic to your dog. Try dissolving these substances with mineral oil. If you're unable to remove something from your dog's coat carefully snip away the affected area. It's always best to sacrifice some hair or fur since it will grow back rather than risk damage to the skin. Brush your dog thoroughly between baths, daily if you can, to distribute the natural oils and remove tangles, mats and foreign matter.

Choosing the best pet shampoo/coat conditioner for your dog.

Always use a pet shampoo that is specially formulated for the pH of your pet's skin. Never use "people" shampoos since our skin pH level is much more acidic than our canine friends and could irritate your dog's skin.

Start bathing your dog at the beginning: Your Dog's Head.

A popular bathing technique is to start at your dog's head and work your way toward the tail. This is especially the case if it's possible that fleas are present. If you know that your dog has fleas you may want to use a flea & tick shampoo. Starting at your dog's head forces any fleas to gather away from your dog's face, eyes, and ears. It is much easier to dunk the rear of your dog into the tub than your dog's face. As you may imagine, your dog is likely to be much more cooperative by following this simple bathing technique.

Let your dog get used to the sound of the running water. If you're using a tub or basin fill it with a few inches of warm water. Then get your dog into the bath. If you're using a raised dog bath just secure your dog into the dog bath. Starting from the head thoroughly wet your dog with warm water. You can use a plastic pitcher or a spray nozzle for this task. If you're using a spray nozzle make sure the spray is not too strong. Never spray water directly onto your dog's face or genitals.

Apply a pet shampoo/coat conditioner. Follow the instructions on the package. Work it in from the head to the tail. Be sure to get all those nooks and crannies; like the rectum, between the toes, behind the ears and under the chin. Be careful not to get shampoo in your dog's eyes. If this is a concern you can protect your dog's eyes by putting some protective eye gel in each eye just before getting your dog into the bath.

Rinse your dog thoroughly with warm water. Shampoo residue can cause skin irritations so make sure you give your dog's coat a thorough rinsing.

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Towel drying your pet's coat in the dog bath will remove some of the excess water before you take your dog out of the tub. Some breeds should never be rubbed, only patted, since their coats easily tangle. Dog owners often prefer to use dedicated pet towels. There are pet drying towels available that will absorb 10 times their weight in water. These are very handy towels to use for a dog bath and can also be used any time your pet gets wet.

Although many dog owners think of bathing their dog as a challenge, with the right approach, supplies, and equipment, you can get through it relatively unscathed. And don't forget to reward your dog's good behavior in the bathing process with treats and plenty of loving kindness.

About the Author:

Teresa James is the Webmaster of www.Dog-Supplies-Advisor.com a site dedicated to providing dog care advice on a broad range of dog-related topics. Includes articles, frequently asked questions, recommendations, and tips for dog owners. Free subscription <http://www.dog-supplies-advisor.com/free-dog-ezine.html>



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Article #4:

Basic First Aid For Your Pet:

What To Do In Case Of Emergency – Part I

Terrie Simpson

Have you ever heard of a situation of a stressed person trying to figure out how to dial 911? Believe me it happens. We had a medical emergency at our home and I had asked my husband to call 911. He was so stressed. I was listening for him to talk, and all I heard was paper rustling. He was looking in the phone book, trying to get the number for 911. Keep a list of emergency numbers by your telephone, preferably one that not only includes your veterinarians name and phone number, but also the name and phone number of an emergency animal hospital, plus your own name, address, and phone number.

Over the next couple of articles I will attempt to give a little insight to some common situations. You will find just as you did with the First Aid Kit, that there are a lot of similarities between animal and human needs. I must stress that the articles are just meant to be helpful just as taking a First Aid class is meant to be helpful. Never self diagnose your pet, consult a veterinarian. Hopefully, these articles can help until you can get professional treatment.

The concept of First Aid means: emergency care and treatment of an injured or ill patient until proper medical treatment is obtained. It may be critical to move the patient from further injury, but try not to make the situation worse ("DO NO HARM"). First Aid should never take the place of professional advice and care.

The first tool you will need is common sense. Remember, your pet cannot communicate to you the full nature of the injury or illness. Realize that your pet is probably going to be upset and frightened. Determine whether or not you will have to muzzle your pet. Take stock of the situation, and decide what equipment and help you will need. Relax yourself. Your being upset will only further upset your pet. Take a deep breath and talk calmly and softly to the injured pet. Use basic psychology. It works for pets as well. Treat your pet just as you would like to be treated in the same situation. You will accomplish more than you would expect. This will help your pet, yourself, and your veterinarian. Once you have conversed with a veterinarian and have decided to transport the pet to the hospital if necessary, DRIVE

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SAFELY! If a muzzle is necessary, one can be created from a belt, a necktie, or gauze. Wrap the gauze around the muzzle, cross the strips under the chin and then bring the gauze around the neck and tie it behind the ears. This will prevent the dog from biting you if it is upset. Small animals can be restrained in a blanket. Blankets can also be used to move an injured animal off the road. They can also be used warm and comfort an animal that is possibly going into shock. So, let's begin:

ALLERGIES

If you suspect allergies because the animal has hives, has swelling of the face or ears, vomiting or diarrhea, respiratory problems you should immediately contact your veterinarian. Some common allergies are spider bites, wasp or bee stings, foods, fleas, cedar, drugs such as penicillin or sulpha drugs. Keep your pet from biting or scratching itself, which may cause further problems such as infection. It's easier said than done.

ANAPHYLAXIS

This is a severe life threatening allergic reaction. In some cases not only will there be respiratory failure but also internal bleeding. This requires immediate veterinary treatment. Keep the pet warm and relaxed until you get there.

BURNS

It is rare that a dog gets burned accidentally by fire. Most common injuries are from falling into hot water, or having hot water or grease spilled on the animal. Pets can also get burns in the throat or esophagus from trying to eat hot foods that may have been dropped in the kitchen. All of these situations require veterinary care. Keep the pet relaxed in a clean spot until you get to the veterinarian.

BITE WOUNDS

Assess the severity of the wound. Wash with lots of clean fresh water. Bandage and apply a pressure bandage if the pet is bleeding severely. Determine if the biter has rabies. Contact the veterinarian who will determine how quickly the injured pet needs to be seen.

If Jiminy Cricket were a cricket for pets instead of Pinocchio, he wouldn't be singing "Let your conscience be your guide" he would be singing "Let your veterinarian be your guide".

About the Author:

Terrie Simpson has been involved in the dog world for over 28 years and has achieved numerous awards with her Springer Spaniels in tracking and obedience. Over that time, she has amassed a good amount of knowledge about how to keep a dog healthy. She is now happy to give back by sharing her experience with other dog owners.



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Article #5:

Basic First Aid For Your Pet:

What To Do In Case Of Emergency – Part II

Terrie Simpson

Just a reminder, before we continue on helpful Basic First Aid tips, the concept of this column is to help you provide care and treatment of your pet until you can obtain professional help through your veterinarian.

✓ **Bites (snake)**

Get your pet to a veterinarian immediately - keep both yourself and the pet quiet and still - if possible bring the dead snake with you. The head is essential to establish the type of snake to get the correct type of anti-venom.

Some veterinarians will recommend a tourniquet, others feel they are useless as the poison has already entered the bloodstream. If recommended, do this after you are on your way. Time is essential.

✓ **Bites (cat)**

Cats carry a certain bacteria in their mouth - watch for "cat scratch fever". All cat caused wounds should be thoroughly cleaned as soon as possible after the infliction.

✓ **Bites (big dog little dog)**

In a situation where a big dog was fighting with a little dog, it is a good idea to have the little dog checked by a veterinarian. There may be underlying injuries not as apparent as a bite wound.

✓ **Bites (small wounds)**

Clean the wound and use sterile dressings. Contact your veterinarian.

✓ **Bites (large open wounds)**

If the situation ever occurs where the dogs insides are outside, keep the evisceration moist with saline or water. Use sterile dressings. Do not try to replace the organs yourself. Try and control the bleeding and treat for shock. Transport immediately to a veterinarian. Try and keep both yourself and the pet as calm as possible.

✓ **Bloat**

This is an emergency that requires immediate veterinary assistance.

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Breeds with stomach tuck-up are more at risk (Boxers, Great Danes, Retrievers), than other breeds. The stomach turns and twists the intestines which cuts off circulation, etc. Watch for a bloated stomach, retching and white gums. A recommendation lately is to elevate the food dish as a possible prevention to this condition.

✓ **Broken toe nails**

Try to clip off the broken end. Use a commercial remedy, or corn starch to stop the bleeding. Bandage the paw to keep the wound clean. Change bandage frequently and watch for infection.

✓ **Blistered or cut pads**

Evaluate the size, depth, location of the wound, the source, amount of bleeding and check to see if there are contaminations such as glass, etc. in the wound. Is the wound a burn? Does it just need cleaning and bandaging, or does the wound need sutures?

✓ **Chemicals**

Any time you suspect your pet has ingested any type of chemical, such as antifreeze, slug bait, flea sprays, rat poisons, etc. contact the veterinarian immediately. Identify the product and take the package to the veterinarian with you. Depending on the chemical the veterinarian may recommend you induce vomiting with a couple of tablespoons of peroxide. He will not recommend vomiting if your pet has ingested caustics, acids, or petroleum distillates.

✓ **Hit by a car**

Always seek veterinary attention, even if the pet seems fine. Injuries could be superficial, or there could be spinal or internal injuries. Stabilize the pet and take it to a veterinarian.

✓ **Diarrhea**

Dogs and people get diarrhea from time to time. Usually Vomiting there is no real concern and can be treated with medicines such as Kaopectate (consult your veterinarian for dosage amounts for the size of your dog). Diarrhea becomes an emergency when it lasts more than 24 hours, if there is blood in the stool, if there is vomiting, if the dog is listless, not eating or acting ill, or if there is a fever. In these instances, immediately contact your veterinarian.

✓ **Drugs**

Any time a dog eats any type of human medication it is an emergency. Also, non-prescribed drugs such as marijuana or hallucinogens can cause severe problems. Locate the bottle the drug came in and contact your veterinarian immediately. It is important to stop the absorption of the drug immediately. The veterinarian will likely recommend you induce

vomiting by giving a couple of tablespoons of peroxide. Mustard also works.

✓ **Electrocution**

This usually happens with bored puppies looking for something to chew on. Prevention is worth a pound of cure. Keep electrical cords either unplugged or tucked away. Provide your puppy with ample toys and a restricted area in which to play safely. Electrocution will show very few signs of injury, but usually there is pulmonary injury to the heart and lungs. Any time you suspect electrocution immediately contact your veterinarian.

✓ **Eye Injuries**

This is a big emergency that requires immediate appropriate treatment in order to save the eye. If the eyeball has come out of the socket, do not try to replace it yourself. Rely on your veterinarian to do this. If the eyeball remains out of the socket too long the cornea will dry out, and it may not be possible to save the eye. On the veterinarians advise, first aid can consist of applying eye drops or ointments to keep the eye moist. Tap water, or anything not recommended by the veterinarian can cause damage.

✓ **Fractures**

Any bone in a dogs body can be fractured. Fractured limbs are quite common. Fractures require treatment by your veterinarian. Attempts to immobilize the fracture with splints can cause more injury and pain for your pet. It is better to immobilize the whole pet and transport it to the veterinarian with a minimum amount of movement. Fractures are usually accompanied with shock, keep your pet calm and warm.

Remember: Do not panic, stay calm, assess the situation, evaluate the pet (do you need to muzzle it), and do not make the situation worse. Keep your veterinarians telephone number in a handy location, and drive safely.

About the Author:

Terrie Simpson has been involved in the dog world for over 28 years and has achieved numerous awards with her Springer Spaniels in tracking and obedience. Over that time, she has amassed a good amount of knowledge about how to keep a dog healthy. She is now happy to give back by sharing her experience with other dog owners.



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Article #6:

Basic First Aid For Your Pet:

What To Do In Case Of Emergency – Part III

Terrie Simpson

✓ **Rabies**

Although cases are rare, there have been instances where the carriers are Brown Bats, Squirrels, and infected animals traveling within the area. Prevention is the best policy. Vaccinate your pet. If you suspect a rabid animal contact the SPCA. If your pet may have been bitten consult your veterinarian.

✓ **Seizures**

Animals cannot swallow their tongue and basically are in no condition to bite you. Keep both yourself and the pet calm and relaxed. Whether it is a human or an animal, the first aid provider must keep the patient from injuring itself any further. Some recommendations include suspending the pet like a mother cat carries its kittens or suspending the pet in a blanket (hammock style). Assess the situation. Determine the cause of the seizure. Was it trauma, temperature induced, drug induced, possible epilepsy, or unknown? Any situation involving a seizure requires veterinary follow-up.

✓ **Shock**

This is a very serious condition and requires immediate medical attention. The worst possible scenario for an injured patient who goes into shock is death. Watch for signs of disorientation, weakness, dazed or glazed expression, pale gums, and collapsing. Get the animal to lie down and keep it warm. If possible, elevate the feet. It is important to keep the blood flowing to the brain and prevent heat loss.

✓ **Sunburns**

Yes, pets that have exposed skin are subject to sunburn. You can use children's nontoxic sunscreen. Prevention is the best cure. In the case of sunburn, consult your veterinarian for topical ointment and make sure your pet is not also suffering from heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Provide plenty of fluids.

✓ **Spinal trauma**

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If you suspect spinal trauma, minimize the movement of the patient. Improvise a spinal board and transport the pet to the veterinarian. Keep the pet calm and quiet.

✓ **Stings Bees**

Sting bees leave poison sacks, other insects do not. Watch the swelling. Some animals can be allergic to stings. It's always a good idea to keep Benadryl in the home.

✓ **Ticks Watch**

Ticks watch for them in peak seasons. Remove them properly and thoroughly. Using tweezers carefully, steadily and slowly remove the tick ensuring you remove the mouthparts. Clean and disinfect the wound and your hands. Watch for symptoms of Lyme disease, which include (arthritis, depression, lethargy, fever, severe pain, and lameness). If you suspect Lyme Disease consult your veterinarian. Ask your Veterinarian about vaccinating for Lyme Disease.

✓ **Toxic Substances**

Just a quick reminder as we head into the Christmas season that many of our human traditions are toxic to the animals. If your pet has ingested any of the following items, consult your veterinarian - Christmas Rose, Poinsettia, Holly, Mistletoe, Soap Berries, Avocado, Nutmeg, Mushrooms, Spinach, Indian Laurel, and Chocolate.

✓ **Whelping**

Generally, any dog that is having a lapse of 5-6 hours between puppies and is still in labor needs to see a veterinarian. Any dog that becomes weak during labor should see a veterinarian for the sake of the unborn puppies and to prevent possible problems to the mother. The best source for answers to any of your medical concerns for your pet is always your veterinarian. Maintain regular checkups and vaccinations. Never hesitate to seek care for your loved one.

About the Author:

Terrie Simpson has been involved in the dog world for over 28 years and has achieved numerous awards with her Springer Spaniels in tracking and obedience. Over that time, she has amassed a good amount of knowledge about how to keep a dog healthy. She is now happy to give back by sharing her experience with other dog owners.



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Article #7:

What You Should Have In Your Dog's First Aid Kit

Terrie Simpson

Almost every home, car, office, and job site has a first aid kit and attendant to attend the needs of the humans. Dog shows and trials have veterinarian hospitals listed for emergencies. But what about the pet which ends up hurt at home, in the car, or at the park? Ambulances and first aid attendants take care of our human needs until we can reach proper medical care. But who takes care of our pets?

We as conscientious owners can be somewhat prepared to help our pet by at least having a first aid kit prepared specifically for pet needs. Another way we can help our pet is by taking a pet First Aid course. Many local veterinarians offer First Aid courses. Some dog clubs also arrange for veterinarians to come teach classes to the group. Also, check with the local SPCA as some branches offer courses and are heavily involved in the community.

Taking a First Aid course will give you some confidence when assessing the medical situation involving your pet. You will also learn some basic skills to use at home for small emergencies and how to prepare yourself and your pet to enable you to transport it to a veterinary hospital in the event of a serious situation. Taking a First Aid course is never a substitute for professional care. If you ever have doubt about a pet's health or injury you should never hesitate to contact a professional.

Here is a list of some articles that should be included in a First Aid Kit for your pet. They should be kept in a handy sealed container in the home or in the car. Don't forget to take it with you when traveling.

- ✓ Gauze pads (based on the size of your dog)
- ✓ Gauze rolls -not only to bandage but to possibly muzzle your dog
- ✓ Cotton balls
- ✓ Q-tips
- ✓ Blunt nose scissors -to cut away long hair and tape

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- ✓ Tweezers
- ✓ Thermometer
- ✓ Adhesive tape -athletic type is the best
- ✓ Sterile water
- ✓ Alcohol (99% solution)
- ✓ Hibitane soap (4% solution)
- ✓ Hydrogen peroxide (3% solution) -to induce vomiting or cleaning wounds
- ✓ An old sock -to protect bandaged feet
- ✓ Cohesive flexible bandage -great for wrapping a wound and not having it pull hair like adhesive bandages
- ✓ Ointment for small wounds and burns
- ✓ Eye drops or ointment
- ✓ Ear cleanser and dryer
- ✓ Spoon or syringe for administering fluids
- ✓ Towel or blanket -serves many purposes: controlling temperature, transporting the pet, controlling the pet
- ✓ Zip lock bags -to contain urine or fecal matter -to keep bleeding paws from staining your clothes, etc.
- ✓ Quarters
- ✓ Your veterinarians name and phone number written down on a sheet with
- ✓ Your name and your dog's name written down as well. Any medications your dog usually takes.

Other useful items to include are Maalox, Kaopectate, Pepto-Bismal and buffered aspirin. Never administer without first consulting with your veterinarian for the dosage and proper usage based on the needs and size of

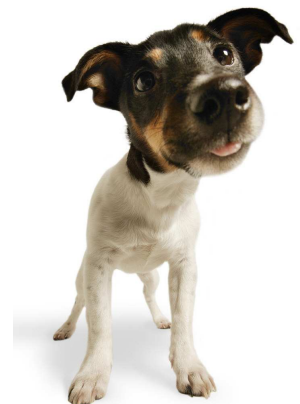
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your dog.

Watch the expiry dates and replace when necessary for optimum effect of the medicines. And most importantly, remember self-diagnosis is your worst doctor. When in doubt always consult with your local veterinarian.

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Article #8:

How To Care For Your Dog's Feet And Save On Vet Bills Down The Line

Terrie Simpson

Even though it may be an obvious fact, dogs have four feet. These four feet have no protection. As the caregivers for our companions, we need to take special care of our pets feet to ensure their pads do not become over-calloused or tender.

Be careful not to over-exercise your pet, ensuring that they do not get blisters or split pads. Exercise should start slowly and increase gradually. It is not a wise idea to exercise your dog by forcing it to run alongside a bicycle or car, as you cannot readily check for exhaustion or foot problems. Your exercise program should end by checking the condition of your pets feet.

Grooming is an essential part of the care of our pet's feet. Ensure your dog gets it's nails clipped regularly. Overgrown nails will curl into the dogs pads. Nails can also split if not clipped. Long nails can also cause a dog's feet to spread or splay. Trimming the hair around the pads can also reduce the amount debris that can get lodged between the pads which will cause injury.

After walks or exercise run your fingers over and between the pads checking for stuck materials such as rocks, gum, thorns, glass, impacted snow/ice, etc. Also check for sore spots. As you get to know your dog, check for spreading or splaying. In older dogs conditions such as arthritis may cause splaying.

At certain times of the year there may be bio-hazards on the ground from people using fertilizers, weed killers, or chemicals used for ice or snow removal. It may be wise to wash your dogs feet with warm water and baking soda regularly after your walk or exercise period.

If your pets feet are sore, reduce exercise and bathe the feet. If the condition persists consult your veterinarian as soon as possible. Your pets feet are their means of mobility.

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Article #9:

What To Do If Your Dog Has Skin Problems

Terrie Simpson

Under all that copious fur there is skin. Skin that is susceptible to a myriad of diseases and afflictions just as we humans are. The difference being that in humans we can readily see a health problem. In a dog, skin health problems are not readily apparent until the dog gives us an indication. Usually, the indications are excessive licking and scratching. In general we humans tend to take our skin for granted. If we go out into the sun, we use sun screen. If we have dry skin, we use a lotion. And occasionally we notice irregularities and then we go to the doctor. We're pretty complacent and tend to think of skin as the wrap that molds our body. With dogs, the skin goes beyond being a mold. It is an organ in itself. This organ regulates the heat in a dogs body and works in conjunction with the foot pads which allow the dog to perspire.

As with humans the skin communicates sensations such as pain, heat, cold, touch, etc. to the brain. An animal's skin also processes vitamin D just as we do. When we take our pet to the veterinarian, one of the usual examinations done is one of the skin. When the veterinarian back brushes the fur he/she is not only looking for parasites such as fleas and mites, but they are also looking at the skin. Dry skin and fur can indicate illness. Yellow skin can indicate jaundice and blue skin can indicate heart problems. Rashes can mean allergies.

Dogs can have seasonal and environmental allergies as well as food allergies. Food allergies may not always be associated with new foods but can also come from foods they have eaten for years and have become sensitive to due to many reasons. So called "hot-spots", for example may be a result of a dog no longer being able to digest a certain food. Your veterinarian will recommend ways to test your dogs diet and recommend a course of treatment. Many dogs such as spaniels have seasonal and environmental allergies which can manifest themselves not only with sneezing and watery eyes, but also with skin rashes.

Allergies to fleas and medicines can also cause skin rashes. There are now veterinarians who are specializing in animal allergies and dermatology. Should your veterinarian find it necessary a referral could be made for diagnosis and treatment.

There are also genetic skin disorders and glandular skin disorders. There

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are several diseases associated with ovarian and testicular problems. Diagnosis and treatment can be made by your veterinarian. Dogs are also susceptible to various types of skin fungus. They are highly contagious to humans and other animals. Mange is another skin disease that is contagious. Quick diagnosis and treatment is essential.

In addition to the previously mentioned skin problems, there are also seborrheic (seborrhea) skin diseases, tumors, melanomas, infected sores, mites, etc., that can be diagnosed by your veterinarian.

The purpose of this article is to make owners aware that the care and regular examination of your dogs skin is essential. Before buying a dog, consult with the breeder and a veterinarian. Know the diseases which are specific to the breed you desire. Know your dog's body as you should know your own. Check for skin problems during regular grooming.

If you find an area of concern, consult your veterinarian immediately. Do not make a self-diagnosis and start a course of treatment. Only a veterinarian can make a proper diagnosis and recommend oral and/or topical treatments. Delay in proper diagnosis and treatment can cause delay in recovery and possible spread of the ailment and unnecessary prolonged discomfort for your beloved pet.

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Terrie Simpson has been involved in the dog world for over 28 years and has achieved numerous awards with her Springer Spaniels in tracking and obedience. Over that time, she has amassed a good amount of knowledge about how to keep a dog healthy. She is now happy to give back by sharing her experience with other dog owners.



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Dr. Moira has over 21 years experience in the veterinary field with more than half of those focused on natural, alternative pet strategies such as homeopathy and herbal medicines. Since her transition to alternative methods, Dr. Moira has accomplished extraordinary things with her patients. In some cases, chronic illnesses have disappeared virtually overnight! When you signup today to K9Kourier you will receive this 41-minute MP3 download **absolutely free!** In it, you will discover:

- The differences between conventional & alternative therapies and how three natural methods can work wonders for your dog.
- When it is appropriate to seek out conventional treatment for your pet.
- Find out how Dr. Moira healed a patient suffering from serious negative side effects due to vaccinations in *just one afternoon...*
- How "you are what you eat" also applies to your furry friend and what the best foods for your dog are.
- How to fill your dog with the healthy food he needs - **fast** and **affordably!**
- What signs to look for that could signal a serious emergency in your pet...
- The **3 best things** to do to ensure your dog lives the *longest, healthiest* life possible.
- Plus, much, much more...

As you can see this recording contains **must have** information for any responsible dog owner. And **best of all** - you get this priceless information RIGHT NOW for free when you subscribe to the K9Kourier Ezine, *your source for relevant, up-to-date, and fun news about our beloved canines!* It's **not available for sale** - only through this special limited-time offer to subscribe to K9Kourier. Signup now at <http://www.k9klearup.com/k9kourier/19693> to receive your FREE gift now!

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