

FIRST AID KITS FOR YOUR DOGS...

Submitted by Staci Hobby, Heartland Chapter of MPBA

First Aid Kits are easy enough to create with just a little time. The first thing you need is some kind of container to hold all the medicines, drugs and supplies in. A tackle box, old lunch box or some other shoe box sized plastic container works really well. It should be waterproof, strong enough to withstand mild pressure and have a clasp of some sort—but not locking.

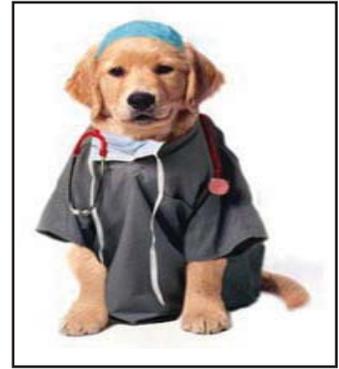
Label it on all side with a felt tip marker so that it is easy to read. Something such as GSD (German Shepherd Dog) First Aid Kit or whatever will work just fine so that you can easily know the difference between your human first aid kit (if you made it yourself as well) and this one for your dog(s) and puppy(s).

Under the lid of your GSD First Aid Kit would be a great place to tape an index card containing the numbers of your local veterinarian, poison control, and other canine emergency numbers for your dogs. It would also be a good place to list a description of your dog(s) including color, weight, name, health issues, distinguishing characteristics and a recent photo labeled with the **name of each pet**.

Your dog will thank you in the case of some sort of disaster or emergency when you are not at home for some reason. Below is a list of several items you should obtain to place within your First Aid Kit and brief explanations as to what each item is for. Remember...your dogs' health may depend on it!

First Aid Kit Ingredients:

- Activated Charcoal: For Poisonings (1 gram per pound, mixed with water).
- Antihistamine Tablets: For Insect stings and allergic reactions.
- Betadine or Nolvasan: Cleaning open wounds.
- Blankets: Several if possible, to help prevent against shock in the event of an accident or injury as well as a good way to transport an injured dog.
- Blunt nosed Scissors: To cut tape or clip. Keep these scissors with the kit.
- Canine Rectal Thermometer: To take the dog or puppies temperature.
- Cortisone Ointment: Used as a topical anti-inflammatory.
- Cotton balls and swabs: Used mainly to clean wounds.
- Eyedropper or dosage syringe: To apply medications to your dog.
- Eyewash: To irrigate the eyes of your dog.
- First-aid Cream: To sooth and protect wounds.
- Gauze bandage: For wrapping wounds.
- Gloves: Both thin plastic to avoid contamination and thicker ones if you have a fear of being bitten.
- Hand Towels: To dry hands, for clean up, etc....Hydrogen Peroxide (3%) has various uses, one of which is to induce vomiting.
- Ipecac: Used to induce vomiting (1 teaspoon per 20 lbs).
- Kaolin and Pectin: To help diarrhea (1 teaspoon per 10lbs).



- Magnifying Glass: To help locate any tiny objects.
- Muzzle: Even the best German Shepherd (or any breed) may bite when in extreme pain. If you don't have one you can also make one from strips of soft long fabric, tube socks, etc....
- Nail Clippers: Best case scenario, have both human and canine.
- Non-stick Adhesive Tape: To help tape bandages in place.
- Non-Stinging Antiseptic Spray: To help clean wounds.
- Pepto Bismol, Maalox or Kaopectate: To help relieve minor stomach upsets.
- Petroleum Jelly: For use with the rectal thermometer, also an aid in constipation (1/2 teaspoon per 10lbs).
- Saline Solution: Can be used for many things such as irrigating wounds.
- Stretch Bandages: For wound dressing.
- Styptic Pencil: To stop minor bleeding.
- Tweezers or Hemostat: Use to pull out splinters or other small foreign objects.
- Vegetable Oil: For mild constipation (1 teaspoon per 5lbs, mix it in with food).

Editor's Note: This First Aid List is for suggestive purposes only; ALWAYS consult your VETERINARIAN FIRST before treating your animals.

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