

8 Remedies for Minor Pet Emergencies You Can Do at Home

Do you have a first aid kit for your pets, as well as your human family? You should. Start with these 4 easily obtainable items, and use these 2 things most people already have as quick stand-ins. That's all you'll need for these 8 common problems.

Analysis by [Dr. Karen Shaw Becker](#)

STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- Most pets at some point in their lives have a little accident or acquire a minor injury at home, and many guardians don't realize they may have just the right treatment in a kitchen or bathroom cabinet
- Good items to keep on hand for minor pet emergencies include styptic powder for bleeding nails, 3% hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting, honey for diabetic pets, and 100% canned pumpkin for tummy troubles
- Did you know a credit card is good for removing bee stingers? Or that contact lens saline solution can be used in a pinch to clean out a pet's cut or scrape?

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Just like two-legged members of the family, sometimes pets have little accidents around the house, yard, or neighborhood. When a dog or cat acquires a minor injury, many pet owners don't realize there may be a quick fix as close as the kitchen or bathroom cabinet.

8 Quick Tips for Treating Minor Pet Injuries and Illnesses

1. **Problem: Nail injury** — Dogs and cats can slice up their nails in a variety of ways – everything from a too-close nail trim that nicks the quick, to running outdoors over sharp rocks.

Solution: Styptic powder — If you don't have styptic powder on hand, for minor bleeding grab either cornstarch or flour from your kitchen, pour some into a small bowl, and dip the injured paw into the powder to stop the bleeding.

2. **Problem: Bee sting** — Most bee stings occur on a paw or the face. Not only are bee stings painful, but your pet could also have an allergic reaction.

Solution: Credit card and quercetin — If you need to remove the bee's stinger, don't use tweezers. Use a credit card from your wallet to scrape away the stinger – just make sure the venom sac comes out with it. If your pet has a mild allergic reaction to a bee sting, offer **quercetin** (I call it "nature's Benadryl") if you have it, or real Benadryl if you don't. Serious allergic reactions require an immediate visit to your veterinarian or the closest emergency veterinary clinic.

3. **Problem: Indiscriminate eating** — If your pet has very recently ingested something she shouldn't, for example, antifreeze or another toxin, you may need to **induce vomiting**. Always call your vet or an animal poison control hotline if you suspect your pet has swallowed a poison.

Solution: Hydrogen peroxide — I'm talking about 3% hydrogen peroxide – the kind you purchase at any pharmacy. The dose is one teaspoon for every 10 pounds of body weight. Hydrogen peroxide typically induces vomiting within 15 minutes. If your pet doesn't vomit within that time, you can give her a second dose, but if another 15 minutes passes and she still hasn't vomited, it's time to call your veterinarian.

4. **Problem: Cuts and scrapes** — Many pets manage to acquire minor cuts and scrapes while running around the backyard or out for a walk.

Solution: Contact lens saline solution — You can clean dirt and debris from your pet's minor wound with regular human contact lens saline solution. You can also use it to flush out dirt, sand or other irritants from your pet's eye.

5. **Problem: Dangerously low blood sugar in a diabetic pet** — If your pet has diabetes mellitus, you'll want to do everything possible to prevent a hypoglycemia attack that can lead to a diabetic coma.

Solution: Honey — As soon as you see your pet's lips start to quiver or his body start to shake, you need grab the honey and rub a little on his gums. Make sure to use honey, not corn syrup, which can contain genetically modified and/or allergenic ingredients.

6. **Problem: Thunderstorm phobia** — Many pets, especially dogs, fear thunderstorms. But it's not just the thunder and lightning that makes your dog anxious, it's also the static electricity that can accumulate in her coat, giving her little electric zaps that are unnerving.

Solution: A steamy room — Pets with thunderstorm phobia often feel more comfortable in a steamy/humid space that removes static from their coat, so try putting your dog (or cat) in the bathroom while running hot water in the shower. Alternatively, you can rub your pet's coat with a nontoxic dryer sheet for the same effect. Many dryer sheets are loaded with chemicals that shouldn't remain on the fur, so make sure you're using safe dryer sheets.

7. **Problem: Constipation, diarrhea, hairballs, and other minor digestive issues** — Most pets at one time or another experience GI issues that last for a few days and disappear.

Solution: Canned pumpkin — It's a good idea to keep a can of 100% pumpkin in your kitchen cabinet for occasional mild tummy upsets. Give a teaspoon of pumpkin for every 10 pounds of body weight, one to two times a day, either in food or as a treat. Pumpkin is rich in soluble fiber that can ease both diarrhea and constipation.

8. **Problem: An injured pet that might bite** — If your pet is sick or injured, it's important to protect yourself and anyone else who is handling or caring for him. Even the most passive, gentle pet can bite in response to fear or pain.

Solution: A homemade muzzle — Most owners of easy-going pets don't even own a muzzle, so if you ever find it necessary to prevent your dog (or even your cat) from biting out of fear or pain, you can quickly improvise a muzzle from a pair of hose or tights, a man's tie, or any available strip of cloth. The make-shift muzzle is lightly looped over your pet's nose and mouth, then crossed under the chin, and tied behind the

ears.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

In most cases of even a minor pet injury or illness, after applying a home remedy, it's still a good idea to follow up with your veterinarian to insure your dog or cat is receiving appropriate care. Chances are you won't need an appointment, but your vet may want to note the information in your pet's chart for follow up at your next regularly scheduled visit.

Sources and References

[PawNation, May 30, 2014](#)
