

# Providing First Aid Wound Care

Study your First Aid Manual (you do have one, right?) and practice wound bandaging on your dog so you will be prepared if needed.

You can provide care to minor cuts that you are comfortable with or stop the bleeding on more major cuts before transporting to the vet.

## Typical Steps

Muzzle your dog, stay calm and soft spoken, this will be reassuring to your dog.

Check for foreign objects in the wound, especially for a wound in the dog's paw pad. Gently remove it with a tweezer if you can. If not, transport to vet.

Clean the wound. If it's in the pad, you can put the foot in a bucket of soapy water to remove debris. If on the body or limb, you can run soapy water on the wound. Rinse and dry. Then clean with antiseptic cleanser like chlorhexidine or Vetericin spray. Do not use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol as these can be painful and cause the wound to take longer to heal.

Control the bleeding. Apply pressure to the wound with gauze, cotton padding, towel, whatever size is needed. Do not wipe or check for ten minutes. If bleeding isn't stopped, transport to vet.

Bandage the wound. Spray with Vetericin or apply antibiotic cream, cover with sterile nonstick gauze square, wrap with cotton cast wrapping, then adhesive bandage like Vetrap as an outer bandage.

Ongoing care. If your dog wants to lick/bite the bandage, put his muzzle back on. Add a tape like duct tape to the bottom half of the muzzle so he can't bite through the holes (which he can). Check the bandage twice/day for good healing or signs of infection. Clean the wound with antiseptic and rewrap until good healing happens. Contact your vet if you see increased redness, swelling, discharge, heat, increased pain or bad odor from the wound site.

Please visit the following sites and texts listed below. The GAP link also has videos.

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/emergencies-first-aid/>

<https://gap.grv.org.au/2017/02/06/aid-greyhounds-emergency-situation/>

<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/emergencycare/pet-first-aid-basic-procedures>

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This is informational only, is not medical advice, not a diagnosis of a condition, is intended for general education. Please consult your veterinarian always.