



# Basic First Aid and Medical Care





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# Common Supplies



**Eyes**

# Eyes

Some eye discharge in the corner of the eye is normal.

Redness and swelling (Conjunctivitis)  
Infection, allergies, injury

Squinting and eye closure  
injury

Third eyelid protrusion  
Illness, injury



# Eye Observations

## What you see....

Redness and Swelling (Conjunctivitis)

❖ Infection/ allergies/ injury



## What you do....

Clean the outside of the eyes with warm water to remove discharge. If swelling, pain, or excessive buildup is present notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*More than 2 days duration\***

Squinting and eye closure

❖ Injury



Watch for any changes to condition, if any swelling, discharge, redness, increase in discomfort, notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment. Minor eye injuries will often heal on their own without intervention.

**\*More than 2 days duration\***

Third Eyelid Protrusion

❖ Injury/ disease



The third eyelid produces tears and is the bodies natural defense for the cornea. Often appears after an injury to the eye (**single eye only!**) Will often return to normal within 24 – 48hrs.

**\*If the third eyelid is present in both eyes at the same time notify your trainer/ Vet Tech immediately\***

# Nose



# Nose

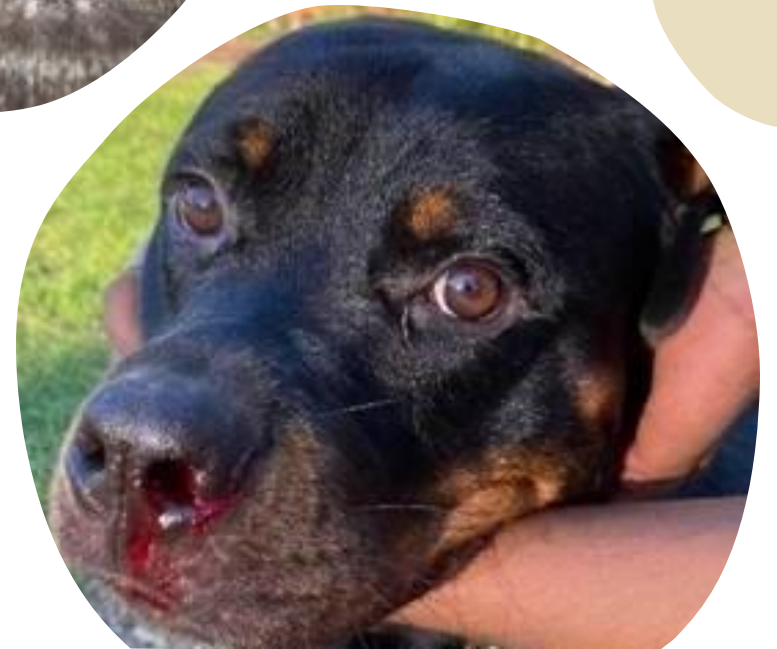
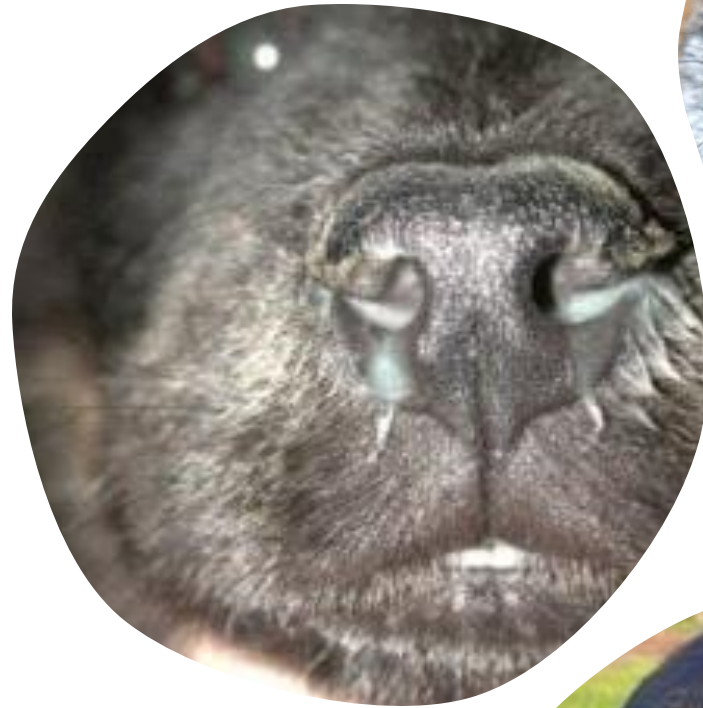
Clear 'water-like' discharge is a normal nasal secretion.

Thick, colored discharge

Illness/ Disease – \*\*often contagious\*\*

Nose bleeds

Illness/ disease





# Nose Observations

## What you see....

## What you do....

Thick, colored discharge

❖ Illness/ Disease – \*\*often contagious\*\*



If you notice thick nasal discharge from your dog then isolate away from other dogs and contact your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment. This is often a contagious illness (similar to a cold) and will require medical treatment.

**\*Will require medication\***

Nose bleeds

❖ Illness/ disease



Nose bleeds in young dogs are often caused by an illness/ disease, when there is no evidence of injury. While not contagious, can be very messy and stressful to deal with. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech immediately for medical assessment.

**\*Will require medical treatment\***

**Ears**



# Ears

Some waxy buildup is normal in floppy eared dogs.

Skin should be healthy and pink with no redness or excessive discharge.

Thick discharge/ crusting/ redness

Ear infection

Ear flap swelling

Hematoma



# Ear Observations

## What you see....

## What you do....

Healthy ears with minor waxy buildup



Clean once weekly with ear cleaner and cotton. **Do not** push cotton into the ear canal.

Thick discharge/ crusting/ redness



❖ Ear infection

Clean ears with ear cleaner and cotton, no more than every 3 days. Notify your trainer and Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*\*May need Medication\*\***

Ear Flap swelling

❖ Hematoma



Filling of the ear flap with blood, often from a burst blood vessel. Will usually not need any medical intervention in minor cases, will need to be drained in major cases. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*May need medical treatment\***

# Respiratory





# Respiratory

## Coughing

Occasional coughing can be normal and situational

## Kennel Cough

Is a \*contagious\* viral (sometimes bacterial) infection in dogs.

Excessive panting with elevated temperature – Heat Stroke

Dogs are sensitive to excessive heat and cannot cool themselves easily.


## Wheezing

Heart/ lungs/ trachea

# Respiratory Observations

## What you see....

## What you do....

Coughing – While at work or play 

- ❖ Most likely situational (eating/ drinking too fast, pulling on collar, etc)

Situational coughing is normal but should be observed to make sure it is not something more serious like an illness or disease.

Kennel Cough 

- ❖ Contagious viral (sometimes bacterial) infection

If kennel cough is observed/ suspected, then isolate the affected dog away from the others and contact your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment. Kennel cough is contagious.

**\*May need Medications\***

Excessive panting – Heat stroke (Temp above 104°) 

- ❖ Excessive panting, Drooling, Bright red gums, Temperature above 104, Collapse.

Start cooling methods immediately and call your trainer and Vet Tech. Soak dog with cool RUNNING water (do not place in bath). Soak paw pads with rubbing alcohol. Monitor temperature until it falls below 102, then discontinue active cooling.

**\*\*\*Extreme medical emergency\*\*\***

Wheezing (Strider) 

- ❖ Can be caused by heart, lungs, or trachea problems.

Strider often sounds more like a wheeze than an active cough and can be a serious medical emergency. Place dog in a safe, quiet place and contact your trainer/ Vet Tech immediately.

**\*\*Medical Emergency\*\***

# **\*Heat Stroke\***

## **Excessive Panting with elevated temperature**

Heat stroke occurs when a dog's body temperature rises above 104° due to external factors (such as air temperature) and they have the inability to cool themselves. Due to our Texas summers, heat stroke is always a concern. Heat stroke causes widespread systemic damage and can lead to organ failure, seizures and death.





# Kennel Cough



# **Wheezing (Strider)**





**Skin and Coat**

# Skin and Coat

Hot spots (Dermatitis)

Red, bleeding, circular lesion

Elbow Callus

Hard, hairless callus

Itching and hair loss

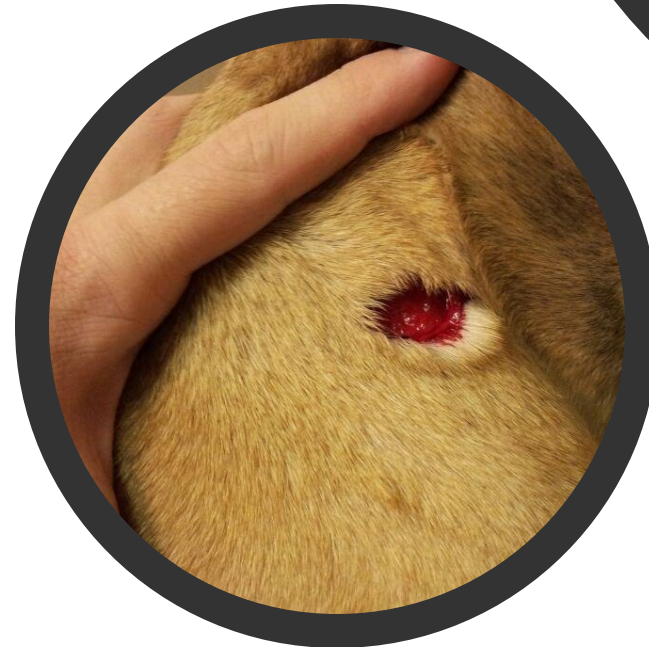
Allergies or external parasites

Pustules

Pyoderma (Skin Infection)

Lacerations

Open wounds



# Skin and Coat Observations

## What you see....

## What you do....

### Hot spots (Dermatitis)

- ❖ Found anywhere on a dog's body, but the most common sites are the head, legs, and hips.

Clip away hair from around hot spot to allow easy access. Clean daily with Chlorhexidine scrub. Try to keep clean and dry. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*May need medication\***

### Elbow Callus

- ❖ Body's normal reaction to protect boney areas from hard surfaces.

These are normal skin changes caused by the dog's environment. They need no medical treatment and form to protect boney areas from hard surfaces.

### Itching and hair loss

- ❖ Allergies or external parasites

Seasonal allergies are normal here in Texas and require no treatment unless the dog is scratching excessively or noticeably uncomfortable. Hair loss caused by external parasites can only be confirmed by the Veterinarian/ Veterinary technician and will require treatment. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*May need medication\***

### Pustules

- ❖ Pyoderma (A bacterial infection of the skin)

Pyoderma is a bacterial infection of the skin, in mild cases it can be managed by bi-weekly medicated baths. In more severe cases will require a course of antibiotics. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

### Lacerations

- ❖ Actively bleeding wounds

**\*May require medication\***  
Wounds that are deep enough to be actively bleeding or penetrate through all skin layers need medical treatment. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment immediately.

# Legs and Feet



# Legs and feet

Limping

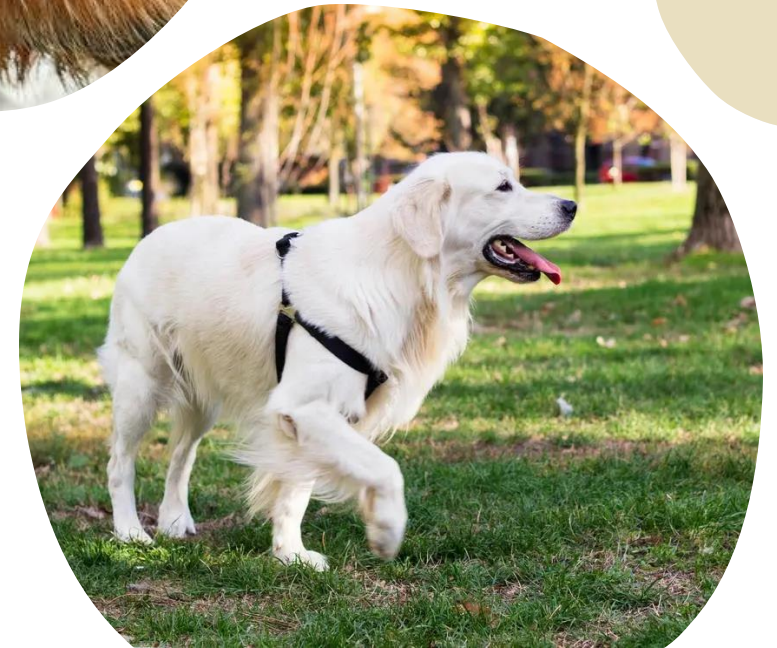
Injury, illness

Broken toenail

injury

Swollen toes

Injury, allergy, infection



# Legs and Feet Observations

## What you see....

## What you do....

### Limping

- ❖ Unwillingness or inability to bear weight on a limb

Mild limp: (Still able to walk normally, just with a slight limp) cage rest your dog for 2 days and observe how they are doing. If no improvement notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*No medication needed\***

Moderate – Severe limp but still weight bearing: cage rest your dog and notify your trainer and Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*Medication may be needed\***

Non-weight bearing lameness requires Veterinary assessment. Cage rest and notify your trainer/ Vet Tech immediately.

**\*Medication will be required\***

### Broken toenail

- ❖ From injury of trimming accident

While not a medical emergency, can be very painful for the dog and will require medical intervention if bleeding. Quick-Stop can be used to stem bleeding from nail trim accidents. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

### Swollen toes

- ❖ Allergy or infection

Red, swollen, discolored skin with hair-loss can be caused by allergies or a skin infection. Notify your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

**\*Medications may be required\***



# Digestive System



# Digestive Trouble

## Vomiting

Dietary indiscretion, stress, reflux, torsion, illness

## Diarrhea

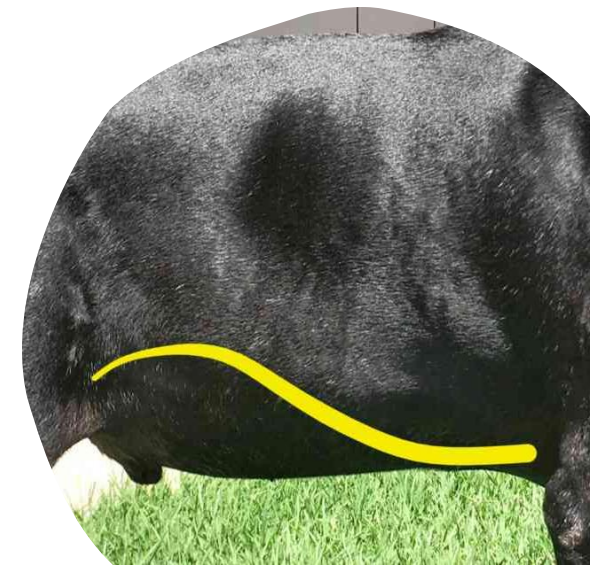
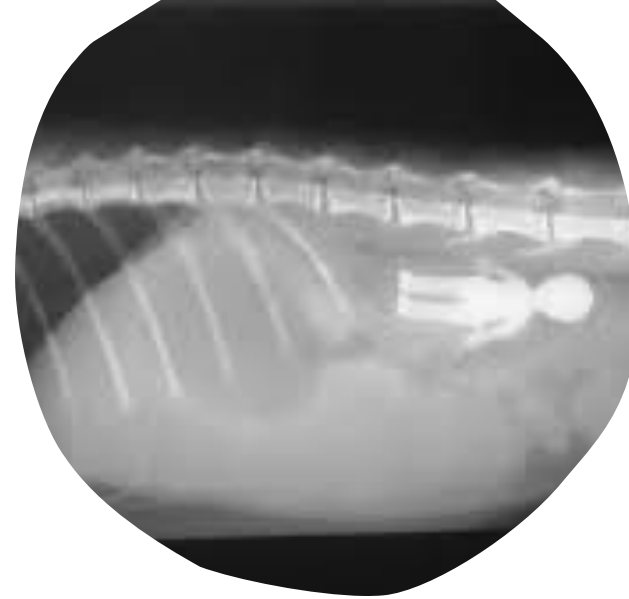
Dietary indiscretion, stress, illness

## Foreign Body Ingestion

Ingestion of non-food item

## Swollen Abdomen

Dietary indiscretion, Bloat



# Digestive Troubles

## What you see....

## What you do....

### Vomiting



- ❖ Dietary indiscretion, stress, reflux, torsion, illness

Stress and dietary changes are the leading cause of vomiting. There are many food items found in homes that are considered toxic to dogs and should be reported immediately upon ingestion. 2 or more episodes of vomiting should be reported to your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

### Diarrhea



- ❖ Dietary indiscretion, stress, illness

**\*May require medication\***

Stress and dietary changes are the leading cause of diarrhea. Diarrhea lasting longer than 2 days, watery or bloody diarrhea should be reported to your trainer/ Vet Tech for medical assessment.

### Foreign Body Ingestion



- ❖ Ingestion of non-food item

**\*May require medication\***

If your dog eats a non-food item, such as a toy, bedding, or leash, this constitutes as a medical emergency and needs to be reported to your trainer/ Vet Tech immediately.

### Swollen Abdomen



- ❖ Dietary indiscretion, Bloat

**\*Will require medical intervention\***

The most common reason for a distended abdomen is over-indulgence or a medical condition called Bloat (GDV). Symptoms include rounded (distended) abdomen, un-productive retching, and heavy panting/ restlessness.

**Unless it is known that over-indulgence is the cause of the distension, this is an extreme medical emergency and should be reported to your trainer/ Vet Tech immediately.**

**\*Will require emergency surgical intervention\***

# Administering medications





# Applying Eye Medications

Hold the eyelids open and apply a small,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " strip, just above the lower eyelid. Close the eyelids to distribute the medication across the eye.



# Administering Ear Cleaner

Apply a small amount of ear cleaner into the ear canal and massage gently to loosen the ear wax. Clean excess ear cleaner and debris from ears with cotton balls. Do Not push cotton balls into the ear canal.



# Administering Ear Medications

Depending on the prescribed medication, instill the amount of numbered drops into the ear canal. Gently massage the ear canal to distribute the medication. **Do Not** use ear cleaner while dog is being treated with medication.



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## Administering tablets or pills

Most tablets and pills should be given with a small amount of food. Some tablets are designed to be chewable and can be given the same as a treat would be. Others may need to be hidden in a small amount of high value options (such as peanut butter).

Unless otherwise stated, medications should not be given on an empty stomach.



# Administering Liquid Medication

Liquid medications are often better given directly into the mouth, rather than on food, etc. Pull up the directed dosage amount into the syringe and place into the cheek pouch of the dog's mouth. Slowly dispense the medication into the mouth while keeping the head elevated and the mouth closed. Remove the syringe, while keeping the mouth closed and encourage the dog to swallow gently (if needed) by rubbing on the throat or blowing on the dog's nose.





**Questions?**

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