

Basic Field First Aid

By Sande Mustain



I was able to attend a presentation by Dr. Susan Pond, a local veterinarian who gave a wonderful presentation on Dog Field Emergency Medical Treatment. The presentation was videotaped and will be added to the SMCNA website, but for those who weren't able to attend the conference this year (or don't want to watch the entire video), I thought I would share my notes. In some situations (such as severely broken bones, like a compound fracture coming through the skin) you need to wrap the wound as carefully as possible and bring your dog to the vet immediately. In other cases, there are treatments you can do yourself and no need for a medical follow-up. But in all cases of injury, it's good to know basic first aid for your dog so you can act appropriately and maybe save your dog's life.

Heatstroke

When a dog is exposed to high temperatures for long periods of time heatstroke, or hyperthermia, can occur. Symptoms are excessive panting, can't get cool, thick saliva, dizziness, not listening to commands, dark red gums, laying down and unwilling to get up. Once the signs of heatstroke are detected, there is precious little time before serious damage or even death can occur. Dogs do not sweat through their skin like humans – they release heat through panting and they sweat through their foot pads and nose. If a dog cannot cool down and their temperature reaches 106, irreversible damage is done to the dog's organs and they may die.

If you suspect your dog is suffering from heat stroke, you must act quickly and move your dog out of the sun. Start to cool your dog with cool water. Place wet rags or washcloths around your dog's head and between their legs and change them frequently as they warm up. DO NOT cover your dog's body with wet towels as that can actually trap in heat. Also DO NOT use ice or ice water – this can cause blood vessels to constrict and prevent the body's core from cooling. When your dog's temperature has lowered to around 103 ° F, stop cooling and bring your dog to the vet. Even if your dog seems better, internal damage may have occurred and your vet may need to do further testing.

Nails

Injury to your dog's paws can result in broken nails which can be very painful and will bleed a lot. The best thing to do is to pull the nail off with a pair of pliers – remember, your dog is

in pain and removing the nail will help relieve the pain. Once the nail is removed, apply superglue to the stub which will prevent further bleeding and also relieve the pain because it shuts out the air. The superglue also protects the nail bed from getting infected. Monitor your dog and if in a day or two you notice swelling, redness or heat around the site, take your dog to the vet as the nail may have become infected and your dog may need oral antibiotics.

Puncture Wounds

Puncture wounds of the chest or abdomen are life-threatening and you need to get your dog to a vet as soon as possible. DO NOT attempt to remove the object if it is protruding from the wound. Wrap a bandage around the object to stabilize it and transport your dog to the vet. If there is no object protruding (as in gunshot wounds), again wrap the wound and bring your dog to the vet. DO NOT flush the wound to try to clean it as you will push debris and bacteria further into the wound and cause infection.

Injury to Paw Pads

Cuts or injuries to a dog's paw pads are difficult to treat as they cannot be sutured. The best way to treat a cut is to flush the wound good and then superglue it shut. If it's a puncture wound, DO NOT flush. Wrap your dog's paw and bring to the vet.

Cuts

If your dog has a deep cut that may require stitches, try to bring your dog to the vet within 8 hours of the injury. Up to 8 hours after injury is the "golden opportunity" where a cut can be sutured with optimum results. A cut can still be sutured up to 24 hours but after 24 hours the threat of infection is too great and the wound will not be able to be sutured and will have to heal from within and will leave a bad scar.

If you cannot get to a vet immediately or if the wound isn't too deep, you can flush and scrub the wound with iodine and then apply superglue. Even if you apply superglue and are then able to take your dog to the vet it's ok, as the vet can remove the superglue and put in sutures if the wound requires it, but it must be within the 24 hour period. Cuts that are not too deep can just be cleaned and superglued.

Traps

If your dog is caught in a trap, the first thing you need to remember is to protect yourself, as your dog is in pain and scared. Even though your dog knows you and would never bite, if he is hurt and frightened he may try to bite you and you don't need to deal with 2 injuries. Throw a coat or heavy blan-



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ket over the dog's head and have someone hold the dog while you remove the trap. Then depending on the injury, stabilize the injury and transport your dog to the vet.

Porcupine Quills

Few things are more painful for a dog than porcupine quills. If your dog is covered, you may want to transport to the vet for the long procedure. If you feel you can pull them out, have someone hold the dog and put something over their eyes so they don't see the pliers coming. Talk to your dog softly while grasping each quill near the point of entry with a needle nose pliers and pull straight out – try not to break any of them. Once you have removed all the quills, apply a topical antiseptic like Bacitracin to the affected area. Depending on how many quills, you may need to get an oral antibiotic as well from your vet.

Tourniquets

In a worse-case injury your dog may need a tourniquet to save their life if you cannot control the bleeding. Try to put pressure on the wound - if it's bleeding through your bandage or pad in a matter of minutes, do not remove the pad or cloth as you don't want to disturb the clot – put another one on top of it and keep pressing down. If that bleeds through, you may

need to apply a tourniquet. Remember, a tourniquet should only be used in a true life-threatening emergency when there is BRIGHT RED arterial blood pumping from the wound. Tie a piece of cord or cloth around the leg ON THE JOINT above the injury – it may not hold if you tie it directly over or above the wound. Pull the tourniquet tight until the blood stops. Time is of the essence and even with a tourniquet, you will only have about 15 minutes to get your dog to a vet for emergency treatment so you must act quickly and if possible, be on route to the vet as you are applying the tourniquet.



2014 SMCNA Annual Conference Awards

Breeder's Awards

- * Keven Crabtree Crabtree's I Litter with Belle Baronne V Achter De Duinen 04/27/11
- * Melissa Herz's Herzcoffs H Litter with Herzcoffs Butte born on 05/23/11
- * Kris & Jeff Hill's Hunting Hills' Q Litter with Goodman's Eagle Point Farrah born on 06/05/11

Sire's Award

- * VC Cody vom Apfelbaumbach owned by Kris & Jeff Hill for Hunting Hills' S Litter
- * Max vom Schutzenknapp owned by Mary Standiford for Castiron's F Litter

Certificate of Achievement

- * Rod Jensen and VC Lakewood's Augustine Altman (Austin) in recognition of your NAVHDA Versatile Champion title
- * Tonyia Bartholomew and Hunting Hills' Rocky in recognition of your NAVHDA Utility Test prize I
- * Forrest Bolles and Riverhills Cendy's Chance in recognition of your NAVHDA Utility Test prize I
- * Terry Long and Gosch's Seeker in recognition of your NAVHDA Utility Test prize I

Certificate of Appreciation

- * Michelle Wilbers for your work as SMCNA Club Secretary, SMCNA Regional Rep, Host of the Midwest Region Fun Hunt
- * Scott Guilliams for your work as SMCNA Regional Rep
- * Ken Hamele for your work as SMCNA Regional Rep and work on the Bev Turner Youth Mentor Hunt
- * Tom White for your work as SMCNA Regional Rep
- * Terry Long for your work as SMCNA Regional Rep and NAVHDA Annual Meeting Booth
- * Chuck Rabolli for your work as SMCNA Regional Rep

- * Bruce McDonald for your work as SMCNA Regional Rep
- * Kris Hill For your work on the SMCNA Breed Council, Editor of Munster Tales, and the SMCNA Website Records
- * Jeff & Kris Hill For your work as Host of the Bev Turner Youth Mentor Hunt and SMCNA/NAVHDA Training Days
- * Tom McDonald for your work on the Breed Council and the Breed Council Conformation Training Program
- * Kevin Crowley for your work on the Breed Council
- * Tom Ivanoff for your work as the SMCNA Registrar, SMCNA Regional Rep and on the Breed Council
- * Solon Rhode for your work as Genetics Health Director
- * Paul Jensen for your work as SMCNA Advisor
- * Pam Robinson for your work as SMCNA Merchandise Coordinator and Vice President
- * Sande Mustain for your work as SMCNA Treasurer
- * Mark Schnubel for your contribution as 2013 SMCNA Vice-President and 2014 SMCNA President
- * Mic Jensen for your contribution of our Website and Conference Call assistance

Ambassador Award

- * Anne Zeches for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Michelle & Mark Wilbers for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Pam & Pat DeGrace for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Jerri O'Connor for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Clayton Treiber for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Scott & Terri Ludwig for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Mike & Dawn Bulger for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Bryan Fredrick for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Tom Thoresen for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Dan Wietecha for your work with Pheasant Fest
- * Paul Reith for your work with Pheasant Fest