

**Canine Medical Emergencies – When seconds count –
Do Not Wait – perform First Aid and see a Vet immediately
Symptoms requiring First Aid and seen by a Veterinarian:**

Breathing

Not breathing, Suffocation
Choking
Drooling
Labored breathing, grunting
Harsh breathing sounds
Increased respiratory rate/effort

Gastrointestinal/Reproductive

Severe vomiting
Retching continuously
Severe diarrhea
Straining or inability to urinate/defecate
Acute abdominal pain
Abdominal distention
Unusual discharge from penis/vulva (pus)

Missing skin

Bleeding profusely
Severe tissue damage
Exposed internal organs
Broken bones, visible bones
Extensive burns
Pale white or blue skin
Bright red skin or black dead skin

Body temperature higher than 104 degrees

Body temperature lower than 95 degrees

Violent shivering

Situations

Gunshot/Arrow/Puncture
Localized bleeding bite punctures,
snake, raccoon, other dog
Head injury
Difficulty giving Birth
Stepped on/pinched in door/dropped
(small dog)
Exposure too hot or too cold
Hit by a car
Complications from pre-existing
conditions

Shock

Severe depression, unresponsive
Extreme restlessness, agitation
Unable to find a comfortable position
Weak pulse
Pale mucous membranes
Bright red mucous membranes
Sudden collapse
Prolonged seizure
Many seizures, tremors
Coma
Head injury
Acute onset paralysis hind end
Vocalizing
Dehydration limp inelastic skin, dry mouth
Sudden onset of pain

Ocular

Eye popped out or dislodged
Protruding painful eye
Scratched eye
Severe redness
Acute onset blindness
Painful eye
Unable to open eye

Swelling

Puffy lips/cheeks/face
Severe acute itchiness
Local pain, itching, swelling, redness

Ingestions

Human medications
Overdose or incorrect dosing of prescribed animal
medications
Rat Poison
Antifreeze
Xylitol – Sweetener found in sugarless gum, candy
Foreign body
Glue
Toxic plants, toxic foods such as raisins, grapes,
chocolate, onions, rhubarb, avocado, tomatoes, etc

These are indications of serious medical problems that can cause death, such as anaphylactic shock allergic reaction, snake bite, insect bite, internal injuries, internal bleeding, poisoning(drug, food, bait, insecticide, chemical, plants, lead, carbon monoxide, smoke), hypothermia, bloat, urinary obstruction, bladder rupture, uterus rupture, peritonitis, pancreatitis, intestinal obstruction, electric shock, head injury, burns(chemical, radiation, electrical or heat), frostbite, dehydration, suffocation, choking, drowning, heat stroke. Treat first aid and go to vet immediately.



The Merrick Fund Foundation
Helping animal rescues and shelters save lives
<http://Merrick-Fund.org>