

Pawsitive Press

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First Aid for Pets

Patrick Hafner, DVM

1 Knowing some basic first aid measures can save your beloved furry family member's life. I would highly recommend that everyone take a certification class in PET FIRST AID. These classes are available in our area and also online. A certification class will go far beyond the scope of this discussion. I would also recommend purchasing a basic first aid kit for pets that are readily available on line as well.

What do I do if my pet is not breathing or is not breathing AND has no detectable heartbeat?

The most important and life threatening condition to man or beast is the loss of breathing and/or heartbeat. You have no time to waste and it is unlikely that you will make it to an animal hospital or emergency facility in time to save your pets life without administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). This is best explained in the youtube video presented by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Copy and paste the following link to familiarize yourself with this life saving technique.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JHdrojxzSw>

Now that we have established that our emergency does not need CPR we can discuss some of the more common conditions that you may experience during the life of your pet.

What do I do if my pet is bleeding?

Most issues of bleeding are best handled simply by direct and firm pressure to the bleeding site with something as small as a clean gauze square, paper towel, or cloth towel. Repeated pressure may be required for up to 20 minutes. For bleeding caused by a nail trim you need to invest in a small bottle of KWIK STOP powder available at any pet supply store or online. If you trim you pet's nails then you need to have this powder because occasional bleeding from nail trimming is inevitable. Apply this powder with a Q-tip or with your finger and apply direct pressure to the bleeding nail bed. If bleeding of any type fails to stop with this

technique then assistance from a veterinarian is required. If bleeding obviously continues even in the presence of direct pressure then a tourniquet may be required. Most first aid kits come with a latex tourniquet. You can pick up some latex or rubber tubing so that in case of uncontrollable bleeding you can tie the tourniquet like you would a shoelace ABOVE the bleeding site and this will stop all bleeding. This will allow you to proceed to a facility to have the bleeding controlled and handled appropriately.

What do I do if my pet is stung by an insect or snake?

Most of the time a sting by an insect will cause little more than transient pain. However, if your pet develops hives (swollen bumps on the body or face) you need to know what to do. If you can identify a stinger still embedded into your pet's skin you can remove it with a credit card by "sweeping" the stinger off the skin with the edge of the credit card. If any swelling on the body or face occurs or if you pet is suddenly itching all over or redness suddenly appears on the skin all over you should administer Benadryl by

First Aid Cont.

mouth. Give an over the counter tablet of 25mg. per 25 pounds of pet. If your pet weighs 50 pounds give two 25mg. tablets. If your pet weighs around 12 pounds then give one-half tablet.

Dose larger dogs at the same rate of 25mg. tablet per 25 pounds of pet. Some insect stings can produce life-threatening reactions with difficulty breathing and shock reactions. I always recommend that any reaction you can visually see in your pet should be followed up with a trip to the veterinarian to ward off any life threatening reaction

If you believe that your pet may have been bitten by a poisonous snake proceed immediately to your veterinarian! Snake bites from poisonous snakes are almost immediately followed by swelling and pain. The degree of swelling and pain are determined by the type of snake and the amount of poisonous venom injected into your pet. All venomous bites are considered life-threatening unless proven otherwise by your veterinarian.

What do I do if I see a puncture wound or reddened swollen area on the skin?

Interactions with sharp plants, animal bites and other sharp objects are common. Keeping a puncture wound clean with daily washing with a wash cloth, mild soap and water will take care of most simple puncture wounds.

However if an area around a puncture wound becomes reddened and swollen then we probably have an infection or abscess. This will require more than first aid treatment with possible drainage of the area and antibiotic therapy. Please see your family veterinarian. Cats are frequent abscess formers due to their attempts at defending their turf creating infected puncture and scratch wounds.

What if my pet has ingested something poisonous?

The big question when ingestion of a known “bad substance” has occurred is whether to induce vomiting. Some substances are best handled by first inducing vomiting to remove as much of the offending substance from the body before it has a chance to be absorbed by the body. However, some substances are best handled without causing vomiting because of the dangers that could be created by inhaling the substance into the lungs during vomiting. With that in **mind you should call your veterinarian or emergency facility immediately** and obtain their recommendation based on the type and amount of the toxic substance ingested, time of the ingestion and the present mental state of the pet. The National Pet Poison Helpline is 800-213-6680. Speaking of potential poisons, I highly recommend that anything ingested or chewed on by

your pet should not be made in CHINA.

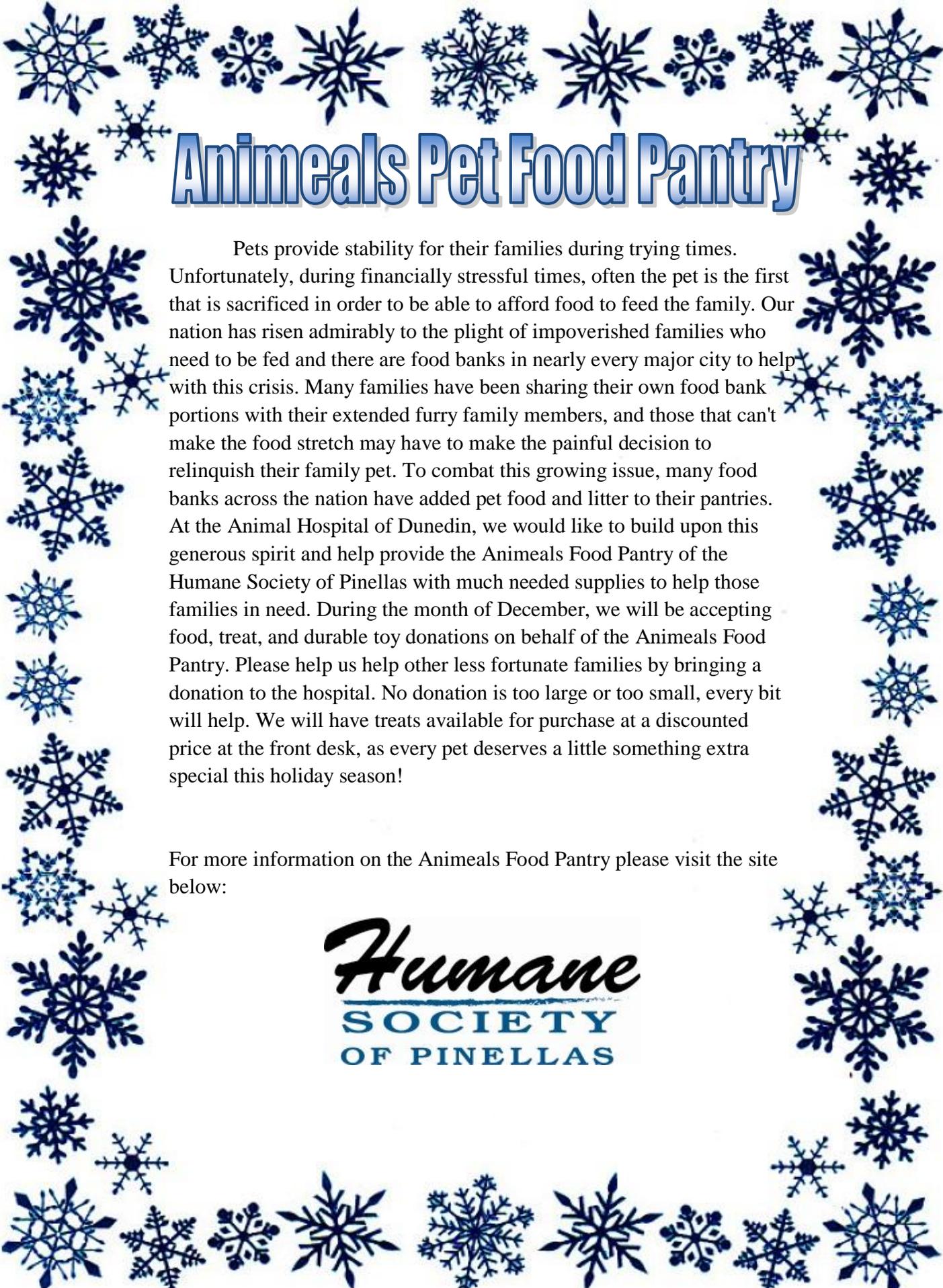
What should I do if my pet is vomiting or has diarrhea?

Vomiting and diarrhea are two of the most common signs of illness in pets. The causes for vomiting and diarrhea are many. Most of the time vomiting and diarrhea symptoms are temporary and transient. If these signs either together or separate occur more than twice a day give your veterinarian a call and see if it wouldn't be prudent to perform an examination and make sure nothing serious is happening.



“Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day. It is amazing how much love and laughter they bring into our lives and even how much closer we become with each other because of them.”

— John Grogan, *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog*



Animeals Pet Food Pantry

Pets provide stability for their families during trying times. Unfortunately, during financially stressful times, often the pet is the first that is sacrificed in order to be able to afford food to feed the family. Our nation has risen admirably to the plight of impoverished families who need to be fed and there are food banks in nearly every major city to help with this crisis. Many families have been sharing their own food bank portions with their extended furry family members, and those that can't make the food stretch may have to make the painful decision to relinquish their family pet. To combat this growing issue, many food banks across the nation have added pet food and litter to their pantries. At the Animal Hospital of Dunedin, we would like to build upon this generous spirit and help provide the Animeals Food Pantry of the Humane Society of Pinellas with much needed supplies to help those families in need. During the month of December, we will be accepting food, treat, and durable toy donations on behalf of the Animeals Food Pantry. Please help us help other less fortunate families by bringing a donation to the hospital. No donation is too large or too small, every bit will help. We will have treats available for purchase at a discounted price at the front desk, as every pet deserves a little something extra special this holiday season!

For more information on the Animeals Food Pantry please visit the site below:

Humane
**SOCIETY
OF PINELLAS**

Animal Hospital of Dunedin
1355 Pinehurst Rd
Dunedin, FL 34698

Phone: 727-733-9351
Fax: 727-733-8165
E-mail:
practicemanager@tampabay.rr.com



“Caring for pets with love and kindness”



We're on the Web!
www.ahofd.com



Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$5 Off

\$5 off Bath with Annual Exam

Call to schedule an annual exam appointment and leave your pet for a bath and receive \$5 off the cost of the bathing services. The bath will include shampooing, ear cleaning, pedicure, warm air drying, and brush out.
Expires: 12/31/13

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Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$10 Off

\$200 Retail Mix and Match

- *Shampoo
- *Heartworm Prevention
- *Flea and Tick Control
- *Food
- *Prescription Medication
- *Dietary Supplements

Expires 12/31/13

NL



Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN
Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness

\$5 OFF

Santa Claws Special
(Pedicure \$18)

Present this coupon and receive \$5.00 off your pets pedicure. Pet must be current on a rabies vaccine. Walk-ins welcome. May not be combined with any other offer.
12/31/13

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