

# Pawsitive Press

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[Red Cross Pet First Aid Kit](#)



[CPR Classes](#)

[Poisonous Snakes of Florida](#)

[Poisonous Critters of Florida](#)

## Pet First Aid

Patrick Hafner, D.V.M.



Obtaining knowledge of basic first aid measures by taking a certification class in PET FIRST AID for pets is a great investment of your time. This knowledge could save your beloved pet's life. Classes are available in our area and online. Simply GOOGLE "PET FIRST AID CLASSES" for a class that fits your schedule. A certification class will go far beyond the scope of this discussion. Basic first aid kits for pets are readily available on line as well.

What should you do if your pet stops breathing or has no detectable heart beat or even worse is not breathing AND had no detectable heartbeat? The loss of breathing and/or the loss of a heart beat is the most life threatening condition for both man and beast. Without having the knowledge to be able to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to your pet during this extreme emergency it is unlikely that will be able to save your pet's life. There is little time to waste and if there is no breathing and/or heartbeat it is unlikely that you will be able to get to a veterinarian in time before it is too late. This technique is best explained in the youtube video presented by the

American Veterinary Medical Association. The following link can be copied and pasted to your web browser to see how CPR is administered by a veterinary cardiologist. Please familiarize yourself with this life saving technique. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JHdrojxzSw>

Thankfully most of the situations we see in our pets that require FIRST AID are not so life threatening. 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 are some of the most common hazards around the home?

Copy and paste this site on your web browser for good information. <https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/HouseholdHazards-En.pdf>

### What do I do if my pet is bleeding?

Direct firm pressure to the bleeding site with a clean gauze square, paper towel or cloth towel will handle most of the bleeding issues you will experience. Repeated pressure may be required for up to 20 minutes. A small bottle of quick stop available at any pet supply store or online is a necessity for anyone engaging in nail trimming with their pets. Everyone will experience a nail bleed eventually when trimming nails and it is best to prepare for it. Direct application of the powder to the bleeding nail with your finger or Q-tip with pressure for 30 seconds is all that is needed for most close nail trim encounters. If significant amounts of bleeding continues anywhere on the body 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.

## First Aid Continued

### **What do I do if my pet is stung by an insect or bitten by a snake?**

Bites or stings from insects usually cause little more than transient pain and inflammation. However, if your pet develops hives (swollen bumps on the body or face) you need to know what to do. If you are able to see 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 mouth. Give an over the counter tablet of 25mg. for a 25 pound pet. If you pet weighs 50 pounds give two 25mg. tablets. 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 that will require more than first aid treatment with possible drainage of the area and antibiotic therapy. 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?**

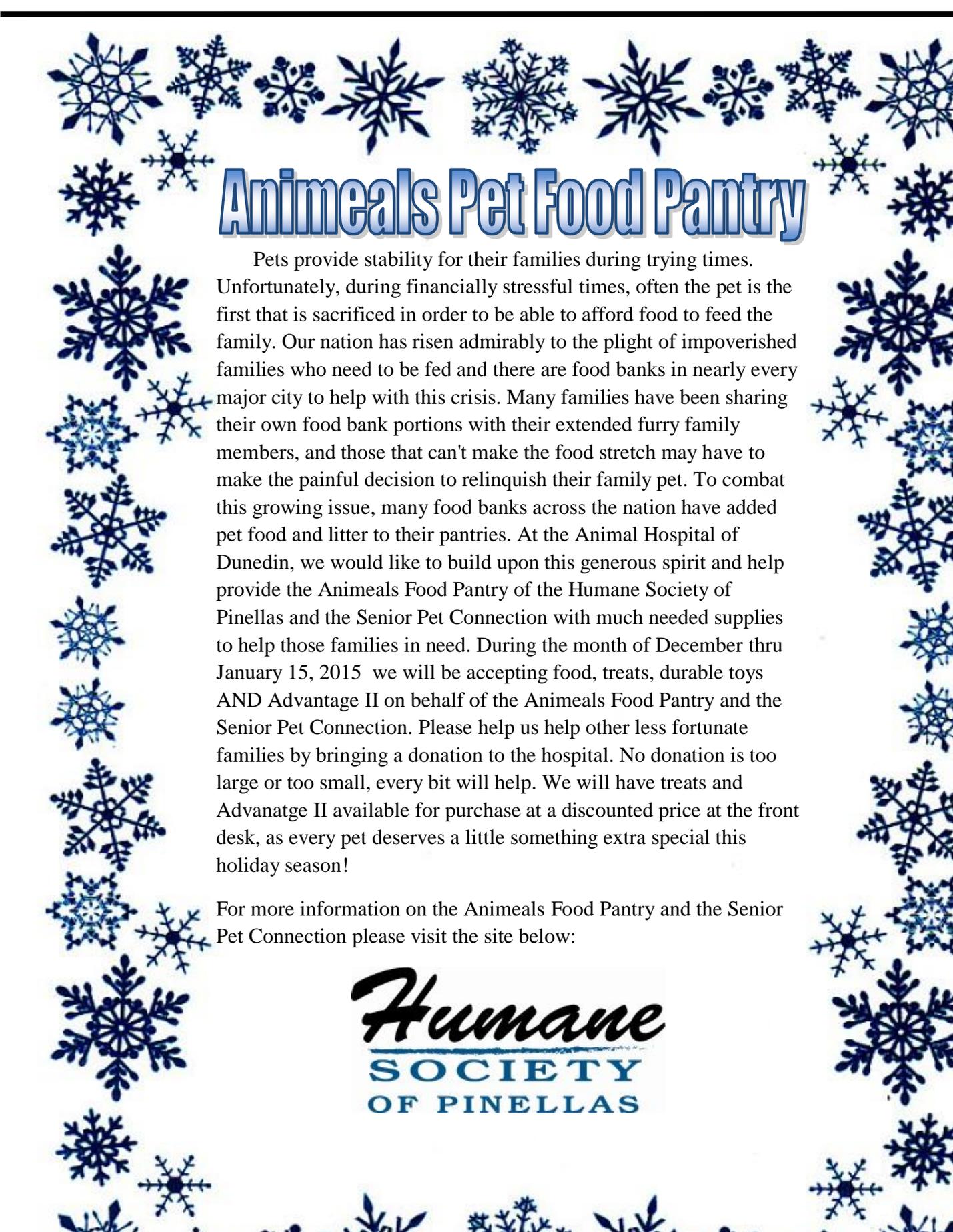
There are frequent exposures to poisons for our pets. When a substance that is known to be toxic is ingested frequently the treatment of choice is to induce vomiting. This minimizes the body's exposure to the poison. However, many substances are more dangerous coming back up from the stomach than letting them pass through the gastrointestinal tract. This maybe because they can burn the esophagus, throat and mouth on the way back up. The other big reason that some

poisons create problems if vomiting is induced is aspiration pneumonia. This can occur if the patient inhales these toxic substances into the lungs. With that in mind you should call your veterinarian or emergency facility 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?**

There are many causes for vomiting and diarrhea in our pets. These two clinical signs are two of the most common signs of illness. Vomiting and diarrhea are usually signs that will be temporary or transient in nature. However, diarrhea or vomiting that occurs several times in one day may need attention to avoid dehydration. If you see blood in the vomit or in the diarrhea then consult your veterinarian immediately. Most of the cases of vomiting or diarrhea can be handled quickly and easily with prompt care. Have a great Holiday Season this year.





## 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 and the Senior Pet Connection with much needed supplies to help those families in need. During the month of December thru January 15, 2015 we will be accepting food, treats, durable toys AND Advantage II on behalf of the Animeals Food Pantry and the Senior Pet Connection. 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 and Advanatge II 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 and the Senior Pet Connection 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](mailto:practicemanager@tampabay.rr.com)



“Caring for pets with love and kindness”



We're on the Web!  
[www.ahofd.com](http://www.ahofd.com)



**Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN**  
*Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness*

**\$5 OFF**

## Santa Claws Special

(Pedicure \$18.19)

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. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires: 12/31/14 NL



**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. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer.

Expires: 12/31/14 NL



**Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN**  
*Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness*

**\$10 Off**

## \$200 Retail Mix and Match

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

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. May not be combined with any other offer.

\*\*This coupon can not be applied to prescription medications other than heartworm/flea control\*\*

Expiration 12/31/14 NL