



Contact Vet as soon as possible - 24 hr - 01793 522483

### *First Aid*

Animal first aid is: the immediate treatment of the injured animal, using facilities or materials at hand to help you.

The aims of first aid are:

- ❖ To preserve life
- ❖ To prevent the condition from worsening
- ❖ To promote recovery/prevent suffering

Firstly – assess the situation (is the animal in danger of more injury, does it need moving immediately, or the traffic stopping etc. You need to assess how you can safely help – do not put yourself in danger).

Don't panic, take a deep breath and try to think logically.

A – Airway (check that there is nothing in the mouth causing a blockage.)

B – Breathing (is the patient breathing)

C – Circulation (is the animal's heart beating)

Control any haemorrhage (bleeding)

### **Approaching an injured animal**

An injured animal is very likely to be frightened, and a frightened animal could bite or scratch anyone who approaches, even if they know that person. Approach gently and quietly, reassure the patient with your voice. If the animal tries to bite you may need to make a temporary muzzle. You could use a looped shoe lace, sock, scarf or belt to tie around the mouth, but do not muzzle if the patient is having breathing problems or has facial injuries.

## **If the patient is unconscious**

Tilt the head sideways so that the tongue falls out – pull the tongue forward to clear the airway.  
**DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGERS IN THE MOUTH.**

Check airway by putting your hand in front of the nose & feeling for air movement and checking that the chest is moving. If the animal **is not** breathing, start artificial respiration

Check the heart to see if it is beating. Place your hand on the chest just below the elbow to feel for a beat.

Make the animal comfortable and prevent heat loss by covering with a coat, cardigan etc.

## **Mouth – to – nose resuscitation:**

Pull tongue forwards.

Close mouth and cup fingers and a thumb around it to create an airtight seal. If the mouth is not sealed then any air you blow into the nose will escape through the mouth, instead of going into the lungs. If the patient is large you may need both hands. It is recommended that you wear a face mask when attempting this, but if none is available and you want to continue, then try to be careful not to inhale any saliva. Do not over inflate the lungs or the delicate lung tissue could be damaged. Gentle puffs that just cause the rib cage to lift are best blowing at one second intervals.

## **Cardiac massage:**

If the heart is not beating, lay the animal on its right side. Place the heel of one hand on the rib cage behind the front leg. Cover this hand with the heel of the other hand. Pressure should be applied at half-second intervals for small animals, and one second intervals for larger ones. For very small dogs and cats the heart is massaged by compressing the ribs between the thumb and forefinger.

If there are two people available both artificial respiration and cardiac massage can be done together.

If you are alone, cardiac massage is for 5 seconds, then inflate the chest once, continue again: heart for 5 seconds – breathing for 1 second. Repeat.

## **Bleeding:**

Cover a bleeding wound with anything to hand: a handkerchief, sock, scarf etc, apply pressure, **unless there is anything sticking out of the wound** – pressure could make this worse. Just cover and if possible, lightly keep dressing on with tape, shoe lace, scarf, sock etc ...

**Telephone Drove Veterinary Hospital as soon as possible – 01793 522483**