NATIONAL PET FIRST AID AWARNESS MONTH

April is the month when we shine the spotlight on our pets. It's also the perfect opportunity to empower ourselves with some of the ways we can help ensure the continued good health of our furry friends.

Pet First Aid

In the event of a medical emergency with your pet, it's important to be prepared. Along with having quick and easy access to your pet's basic information — veterinarian contact, record of license, vaccinations and adoption papers (if applicable), consider keeping emergency items on hand should the need arise.

CAN YOU RECOGNIZE A FEVER IN YOUR PET?

Determining if your pet has a fever by simply touching its nose is a myth – it takes more than just a "feeling" to determine if your pet is ill. When your pet's temp is above 104°F (40°C) or below 99°F (37.2°C), consider it an emergency situation.

As with humans, a fever can be the result of an infection, scratch or cut, tooth abscess, urinary tract problem, or ingestion of poisonous materials toxic to your pet. Symptoms of a fever can include loss of appetite, decreased energy, red or glassy-looking eyes, warm ears and/or nose, runny nose, shivering or panting, coughing or vomiting.

To help determine if a fever exists, there are two methods of taking your pet's temperature – rectally and digitally. Basically, a rectal thermometer is inserted into the rectum, whereas a digital thermometer is placed into the ear canal. However, unless you are experienced, you could face resistance on the part of your pet. Therefore, before you have to deal with an emergency, it is recommended that you consult your vet.

NOTE: This information does not constitute medical advice for your pet. Please consult your pet's vet for specific advice on these topics.



FIRST-AID KIT

Keeping a prepared pet first-aid kit may prove helpful in an emergency situation, natural disaster, or when you are far from immediate help.

Your Kit Should Contain

- Disposable gloves
- Absorbent gauze pads and adhesive tape
- Cotton balls or swabs (like Q-Tips)
- hydrogen peroxide (to clean cuts)
- Styptic powder or corn starch or flour (to stop small wounds from bleeding)
- Scissors (blunt ended; often called baby scissors)
- Tweezers (to remove stingers)
- Antibiotic ointment (like Neosporin)
- Towel and wash cloths
- Alcohol wipes or skin cleanser, makeup remover, hand sanitizer, etc.