

This leaflet gives basic information on first-aid for street dogs - so the lay person does not feel helpless when faced with a sick or injured animal. **Please note that these are only temporary measures. You *must* call a vet as soon as possible.**

## **Common Emergencies**

**(1) Burns:** These can occur from contact with direct heat, chemical agents, or from chewing electrical wires. Serious burns can lead to shock and death. Consult a vet immediately after administering the following first-aid measures.

**Types of burns:** • **Thermal** - This could be dry heat, such as flames; or moist heat, such as hot liquids spilled on the body. First, cool the area by applying cold water or an ice pack for 20-30 minutes. Apply an anti-bacterial ointment. Do not apply greasy home remedies for example, butter, oil etc.; these will trap the heat and delay healing. Homeopathic mother tincture Cantharis Q can also be poured on the burn to soothe the area.

•**Chemical**: For burns with corrosive chemicals, flush the skin with a large quantity of cool water. If the substance contained an alkali, follow with a rinse of equal parts vinegar and water. If the substance contained an acid, follow with a baking-soda rinse (2-3 tablespoons per 250 ml of warm water)

•**Electrical**: Disconnect the wire from its power source if it is touching the dog's body. If you can't unplug the cord, wrap a heavy towel around your hand or use a ruler or other non-conductor of electricity to push the wire out of the mouth or away from the body. Make sure there is a supply of fresh air in the room. Keep the dog warm and get veterinary help at once.

**(2) Poisoning:** **Signs:** Sudden, violent vomiting and/or diarrhoea, fits, foaming at the mouth, staggering gait, collapsing and coma. However, these signs may also relate to other conditions not caused by poisoning. **Action:** ***Consult a veterinarian immediately.*** If a vet is not available at once, and if you know what toxin the dog has

swallowed, try the following: •**For most toxins** (use one method) 3% Hydrogen Peroxide-2-3 teaspoon for dogs, 1 teaspoon for cats - give every 10 minutes repeated 3 times OR salt - one-quarter to one-half teaspoonful, placed dry at the back of the tongue, or dissolve one tablespoon in one cup of warm water. •**For corrosive acid or alkali, gasoline or other petroleum distillates, or strychnine** - ***do not attempt to make the animal vomit.*** Try to delay absorption by giving milk, whipped egg whites, vegetable oil or water. Also do not try to make the animal vomit if it is severely depressed or comatose, swallows tranquillizers, swallows a sharp object, or if more than 2 hours have passed since the poison was ingested.

**(3) Bleeding:** Deep wounds may cause profuse bleeding. If an artery has been severed, bright red blood will spurt from the wound in time with the heartbeat. Blood from a vein will be much darker in colour. **Action:** •Apply turmeric powder or Tincture Iodine •Use a pressure bandage: place a clean cloth or gauze bandage over the wound and apply manual pressure until the bleeding stops •***Get veterinary help immediately*** •You can also put a bandage over the wound and bind it tightly.

**(4) Shock:** Can occur due to an accident, acute infection, haemorrhage, heart disease, heatstroke, diabetes, poisoning or an epileptic fit. **Quick action on your part could save his life.** **Signs:** Low body temperature, pale gums, breathing difficulty, body may become stiff. **Action:** •Place the dog in a warm, quiet place and cover it with a blanket. •Place a hot water bottle next to it if the body is cold. • You can also rub the paws and ears to improve the circulation. • If there is bleeding, take steps to stop the flow • Consult a veterinary doctor for appropriate homeopathic medication •***Arrange for a vet to see the dog immediately***

**(5) Injury** (spine, hip): Give homeopathic remedy Arnica 1M every 2 or 3 hours (one dose is 4 pills/2 drops liquid in ½ teaspoon water) until the dog can be X-rayed. Avoid moving him. If you have to

transport him, ask at least 2 people to help you, to support the head, back and pelvis. Avoid bending the spine. Use a flat board or blanket stretched tightly as stretcher.

## **Recognising major infectious diseases**

**(1) Canine Distemper:** A disease with very high mortality rates, especially in pups. Affects the respiratory, digestive and central nervous systems. Principally affects dogs under one year of age. Recovery is possible if diagnosed and treated early. Ideally, give a short course of antibiotics followed by homeopathy. **Signs:** •cough •high fever •dullness •appetite loss •eye discharge •reddened eyes •nasal discharge starting watery and becoming thick with pus •noisy breathing (lung congestion) •sometimes diarrhoea-may be black and foul-smelling •sometimes vomiting •later, nervous signs-fits, chorea (nervous twitch), paralysis •thickening and hardening of paw pads and nose are typical of distemper

**(2) Lepto-spirosis:** A highly contagious infection that primarily attacks the kidneys. It is transmitted by rats and rat urine. ***It can be passed on to humans.*** **Signs:** •High fever •Loss of appetite •Severe thirst •Increased frequency of urination •Abdominal pain •Depression •Possible mouth ulcers •Coated tongue •Diarrhoea with blood •Dark-coloured urine •Jaundice •Persistent vomiting •Damage to kidneys

**(3) Canine Parvovirus Infection:** A highly dangerous and contagious disease. If diagnosed and treated early it can be cured. **Signs:** •depression •severe vomiting •abdominal pain •refusal of food and water •very profuse diarrhoea often with high blood content •pale gums possible fever of 103°F or above in adults', difficult breathing, weakness, below normal temperature in pups •possible dehydration

## Treating wounds

**Wounds without maggots:** Unless wounds are cleaned and dressed regularly, they could get maggots, sepsis or gangrene- all highly dangerous conditions. •Clean the wound with Hydrogen Peroxide. This will create a lot of froth. • Wipe it off with clean cotton wool after a few seconds. •If there is pus, make sure that it is removed. • Flush the wound with Wokadine/ Betadine solution. Do not wipe this off. •Sprinkle Nebasulf powder when the Betadine has dried a little. • Apply Hymax last to prevent flies from sitting on the wound. **Maggot -infested wounds:** A wound quickly becomes maggot-infested when flies sit on it and lay eggs. The eggs hatch into larvae which are called maggots. Maggots eat the dog's flesh and cause a lot of pain, infection and growing anaemia. If the wound is untreated, they will eat their way deeper into the dog's body and damage its vital organs, eventually causing death. Infection from the wound can also be fatal. A maggot wound in general is treated in the following manner.

- Put Xylocaine lotion on the wound to anaesthetize the area
- Wait for a couple of minutes for it to take effect
- Put a few drops of Ivermectin on the wound. If required pour it in or use a syringe to access the end of a deep tunnel-like wound
- Note:** If the wound is not too deep you can use Eucalyptus oil or Neem oil instead of Ivermectin. Pour it in, using a syringe if necessary. There is no need to use Xylocaine first if you use either of these herbal oils
- Plug the wound with cotton and wait for a couple of minutes
- Most of the maggots would have died. Use clean sterilized forceps and remove them
- Use Hydrogen Peroxide to bring any impurities and dead maggots up to the surface
- Repeat the above procedure till all the maggots are removed
- Flush the wound with Wokadine/Betadine solution. Use a syringe if necessary
- Apply Nebasulf powder after the Wokadine/Betadine solution has flushed out or dried a little
- Apply Acrilin/Lorexane ointment

- Finish the dressing by spreading Hymax liberally on the wound
- Visit the case the next day and repeat the process to ensure that there are no more living maggots in the wound
- Ensure that flies do not again lay eggs in the wound. Eggs if any must be removed with forceps. The dog may resist this as eggs stick tightly to the surface and removing them may be painful
- Follow-up visits will depend on the seriousness of the wound. They should be daily if necessary.

**Wounds on the head:** Do not apply chloroform; use only neem or eucalyptus oil. Preferably call a vet or local NGO.

**Skin problems** (fur loss, itching, redness)  
Use one of the following ointments:

(1) Scabneel Oleo mixed with equal amount of neem oil  
(2) Sulphur powder & camphor powder (equal amounts) mixed with coconut oil. Apply either of these ointments only once every 4 or 5 days or even once a week.

**Varanasi Federation of Animal Protection** helps street animals of Varanasi by mobilising the community, education and engagement with stakeholders. The local federation currently has active first-aid and outreach programmes. This is a project of the **Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO)**, India's apex animal protection organization. FIAPO protects the interests of animals on local and national levels - through education, research, lobbying, mobilization, training and direct action. Created for the movement, by the movement, FIAPO is India's only national federation with over 60 members and 200 supporter organizations nationally!

Contact us at [mail@fiapo.org](mailto:mail@fiapo.org) or call at 9919783355

# First aid for street animals



**Varanasi  
Federation  
of Animal  
Protection**



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