



Pet First Aid Kit

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Just like us, our Cavaliers can fall victim to a medical emergency that requires first aid. While we all know that “prevention is the best medicine”, we also know that accidents cannot be predicted. It helps to be prepared to deal with everything from scrapes, cuts, and bruises to getting **skunked** (yuck!).

According to petmd.com, most pet accidents happen during or around holidays – not just the end of year holiday season, but our outdoor summer holidays as well. These are times when unfamiliar people can be around, along with novel food temptations.

When an accident/injury occurs, try to make the best possible decision regarding the need for **immediate vet intervention** -- versus simple first aid for your Cavalier(s). It's important to remember that you cannot predict how an injured animal may react, regardless of how well you think you know the animal. Always move slowly around a pet that has been injured; speak softly and never surprise them.

Even if your Cavalier is “acting fine” after the accident/incident, you should continue to monitor them closely for the next 24 hours. Be prepared to act quickly and decisively and get your Cavalier to a vet immediately if their condition/behavior quickly changes.

What's in the first aid kit?

In a medium-sized plastic container with a tightly closing lid, gather the following products:

- Gauze/vet wraps – the kind of gauze that clings to the legs/paws, but not the fur
- Non-adhesive sterile pads (large for cleaning/covering wounds)
- Non-stick tape (or you can use the vet wrap to keep a pad in place)
- An extra leash
- A large towel
- A small throw for warmth, or a “space blanket” (available at camping stores)
- Styptic powder or a small container of cornstarch to help stop any bleeding
- A new unopened bottle of Hydrogen Peroxide (1 quart size)
- Small box of baking soda
- Small bottle/travel size of mild dish detergent (Dawn)
- An expired credit/library card you can use to “scrape” (good for getting stingers out)
- A pen light or small flashlight
- Tweezers
- A baby plunger syringe for administering liquid medication, flushing out eyes or wounds
- Small scissors
- Cotton swabs
- Glycerin-based antibacterial liquid soap
- Antiseptic wound cleaner
- Antibacterial ointment
- 2 pairs of disposable latex gloves
- An instant cold pack
- A list of emergency phone numbers, including your vet, the closest after-hours vet emergency hospital, and the **National Animal Poison Control Center (800-548-2423).***



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Try to remember to replace all of the things you used from your kit after the emergency, so you are ready for next time. You may want to check your kit (and replace that peroxide) twice a year. Some pet owners find it helpful to include this task when they set their clocks ahead/back twice a year – or when you change the batteries in your home smoke detectors.

If you have an emergency kit for your family – don't forget about your Cavalier(s)!!

Just as fema.gov recommends, everyone should have at least 3 days of food and water set aside in an enclosed, easily accessible container. This includes your Cavalier(s) as well!

Freeze-dried food makes a good choice, as it has a reasonably long shelf life. Remember to include enough extra water for your pet and at least 3 days of any regular prescribed or OTC medicine they may be taking.

Has your pooch been Skunked?!?

Ah yes! The dreaded encounter that makes all of us shake in our sneakers. Keep the following ingredients on hand (either in your regular first aid kit, or in a separate **"Skunk Kit"**):

- One quart bottle of **new** hydrogen peroxide (using a new bottle is very important, as hydrogen peroxide can lose strength over time, and it's the peroxide that cuts the nasty oils found in skunk spray).
- ¼ cup of baking soda
- 1 tablespoon of Dawn (or other liquid dish soap)

Using latex gloves and a large laundry tub (hopefully not your own bathtub!), mix these 3 ingredients together and continually sponge them over your dog's affected areas.

Make sure not to get any of this solution into their eyes, mouth, ears, nose, or any wounds.

You may want to stuff some cotton balls into their ears before you start the process.

Once your Cavalier is saturated, rub the solution into their fur and leave on for a full five (5) minutes. Rinse completely; repeat if necessary (e.g., really **big skunk** with good aim).

Remember you may want to also soak their collar in this solution, but remember it may also cause light bleaching. Your Cavalier's fur may also appear to be a bit lighter after this treatment, but with new hair coming in all the time, this "sun kissed blonde" look will dissipate in short order – and your nose will be much happier!

**In addition to including important emergency phone numbers in your first aid kit, think about posting them someplace accessible in your home. Inside one of your kitchen cabinet doors is a great place!*