

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

FIRST AID AND YOUR PET

For many, a pet is a member of the family. In an emergency situation, it is often difficult to avoid the feelings of anxiety and panic. However, we recommend the following steps to be better prepared during a medical emergency with your pet.

****ALWAYS remember that any first aid administered to your pet should be followed by immediate veterinary care. First aid care is not a substitute for veterinary care, but it may save your pet's life until it receives veterinary treatment.****

Our hospital cannot stress enough that you **SHOULD NOT** get on-line during a pet emergency or when your pet is seriously ill. However, before you are able to get your pet to a veterinarian, knowing some basic first aid can help. Always seek veterinary care following first-aid attempts.

First Aid Supplies:

The AVMA's handy checklist tells you all the supplies you should have on hand for pet first aid. Make a copy to use for shopping, and keep a copy on your refrigerator or next to the first aid kit for your family, for quick reference in emergencies. (The check-list is located on Page 4 of this newsletter.)

Below and continued on the next page are some basic tips about first aid care and you pet.

- **Bite wounds:** Your pet may be nervous or scared. Approach them carefully to avoid getting bitten. You may need to muzzle the pet. Check for contamination of the wounds and debris. Liberal amounts of saline or tap water may be used to clean the wounds. Wrap larger wounds to keep them clean. Apply pressure to wounds that are bleeding a lot. Wear gloves if able. Bite wounds often become infected and need professional care. Please call our hospital.
- **Bleeding:** Apply firm, direct pressure over the area until the bleeding stops. Hold the pressure for at least 10 minutes. Do not release pressure to check the wound as this will interfere with clotting. Avoid bandages that cut off circulation and call our hospital immediately.
- **Breathing Stops:** Check to see if the pet is choking on something. If he/she is not breathing, place it on a firm surface with its left side up. Check for a heartbeat by listening at the area where the elbow touches the chest. If you hear a heartbeat, but not breathing, close the animal's mouth and breathe directly into its nose—not the mouth—until its chest expands. Repeat 12 to 15 times per minute. If there is no pulse, apply heart massage at the same time. The heart is located in the lower half of the chest, behind the elbow of the front left leg. Place one hand below the heart to support the chest. Place other hand over the heart and compress gently. To massage the heart of cats and other tiny pets, compress the chest with the thumb and forefingers of one hand. Apply heart massage 80-120 times per minute for larger animals and 100-150 per minute for smaller ones. Alternate heart massage with breathing. ***Please note: Even in the hands of well-trained veterinary health professionals, the success of resuscitation is very low overall. Success may be slightly higher in the cases of drowning or electrical shock. Call our hospital IMMEDIATELY!!!

National Pet Week is May 2-8, 2010

National Pet Week is celebrated to help promote responsible pet ownership, celebrate the human-animal bond, and promote public awareness of veterinary medicine.



OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY FROM 8-12 AND
1-5 CLOSED FOR LUNCH

SATURDAY FROM 8-11:30

CLOSED ON ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS

We offer a 24-hour emergency service to our clients. After-hours emergencies please call (409) 384-8731. The answering machine will give you a phone number to contact one of our on-call veterinarians.

Hospital points of Interest

- 24-hour emergency service
- Walk-ins Welcome
- Covered large animal facility
- Indoor heat/air-conditioned runs
- Up-to-date anesthesia
- Blood profiles for your pets health and safety
- ECG and Ultrasound capabilities
- Radiograph capabilities
- Equine Center

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FIRST AID CONTINUED.....

- **Burns:** (Chemical, electrical, or heat including from a heating pad). Look for the following signs: singed hair, blistering, swelling, redness of skin. Flush the burn immediately with liberal amounts of cool, running water. Apply an ice pack for 15-20 minutes. Do not place ice packs directly on skin.....wrap with a light towel. If the pet has a large amount of dry chemical on its skin, brush them off as water may activate some dry chemicals. Call our hospital immediately!
- **Choking:** Symptoms of choking include difficulty breathing, excessive pawing at the mouth, blue tongue or lips. Be sure to protect yourself as well as the animal.....the pet will likely be frantic and prone to bite. If he/she can partially breathe, it is best to keep the pet calm and get to our hospital ASAP. Look into the mouth to see if a foreign object in the throat is visible. If you can, clear the airway by removing the object with pliers or tweezers. BE CAREFUL as you do not want to push the object down farther in the throat. If it is lodged too deep or if the pet collapses, place your hands on both sides of the animal's rib cage and apply firm, quick pressure. You may also place the animal on its side and strike the rib cage firmly with the palm of your hand 3-4 times. Repeat this procedure until the object is dislodge or you arrive at our hospital. Call our hospital immediately.
- **Diarrhea:** Withhold food for 12-24 hours, but not water. Occasionally, pets that appear to be straining are sore from diarrhea rather than from constipation. One of our veterinarians can help you decide which it is and what can help. Trying at-home treatments without knowing the real cause can just make things worse. Call our hospital for an appointment or assistance.
- **Fractures:** Signs include pain, inability to use a limb, or holding the limb at an odd angle. It may be necessary to muzzle your pet and look for bleeding. If you can control bleeding without causing more injury, then do so. Watch for signs of shock. DO NOT TRY TO SET THE FRACTURE by pulling or tugging at the limb. Call and transport your pet to our hospital ASAP, supporting the injured limb as best you can.
- **Heat Stroke:** Signs include rapid/labored breathing, vomiting, fever/increased body temperature, collapse. Soak the pet in cool water and wrap in a cool, wet towel. DO NOT overcool the pet. Stop cooling when rectal temperature reached 103°F. Call our hospital IMMEDIATELY!
- **Poisoning:** Potential signs include vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, salivation, weakness, depression, and pain. If you are able, record what the pet ingested and how much. Call our hospital immediately or the poison control center. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. In a case of toxins or chemical on the skin from oils, paints, insecticides or other chemical irritants, request directions on if and how to wash the toxin off.
- **Seizures:** signs include salivation, loss of control of urine/stool, violent muscle twitching, loss of consciousness. Move the pet away from objects that could be harmful during a seizure. Use a blanket for padding/protection. Do not put yourself at risk by restraining the pet during a seizure. Typically seizures last 2-3 minutes. Afterwards, keep your pet calm and quiet and call our hospital immediately.
- **Shock:** Signs include irregular breathing, dilated pupils. Shock can occur as a result of a serious injury or fright. Keep the animal restrained gently, quiet, and warm, with the hind quarters elevated (45° angle). Call our hospital IMMEDIATELY.
- **Vomiting:** Withhold food for 12-24 hours. Do not give water immediately after or during the vomiting. Once the vomiting stops, you may try giving your pet small ice cubes or small amounts of kapectate every couple of hours. If they are able to hold that down for more than 2 doses, slowly increase the amount of water and foods over a 24-hour period. Please call our hospital for assistance.
- **Hit by Car:** Injuries can range from broken legs, hips, back, ribs to diaphragmatic hernias. If your pet has been hit by a car, carefully restrain him/her and look for external signs of injuries and apply first aid as necessary. Although your pet may seem fine outwardly, internal injuries to the chest or abdomen can present a problem within a given period of time. It is important to contact our hospital if you pet has been hit by a vehicle. Care and observation for internal injuries is necessary and should not be taken lightly. Call our hospital IMMEDIATELY.

NOTE: If you need to muzzle your pet use a strip of soft cloth, rope, necktie, or nylon stocking. Wrap around the nose, under the chin and tie behind the ears. Care must be taken when handling weak or injured pets. Even normally docile pets will bite when in pain. Allow the pet to pant after handling by loosening or removing the muzzle. Do NOT use a muzzle in a case of vomiting. Cats and small pets may be difficult to muzzle. A towel placed around the head will help control small pets. Be sure they are allowed to breathe.

If your pet's emergency is not covered here, please call our hospital immediately. If you are away from home, find a veterinarian or emergency veterinary facility near you. Use a phone book or Dial 1411 on your cell phone to get operator assistance.



Rabies vaccinations.....it's the law!

Texas Law requires that all dogs and cats that are 12 weeks of age and older be vaccinated for Rabies! A veterinarian MUST administer this vaccination. Be sure your pet is up-to-date on his/her Rabies vaccinations, as well as other yearly vaccinations, annual exam, heartworm check and preventative, and intestinal parasite screen.

Call for An appointment Today (409) 384-8731.

LARGE ANIMAL POINTS OF INTEREST



REMEMBER YOUR EQUINE VACCINATIONS!!!!

Summer and Early Fall bring about those pesky mosquitoes and with mosquitoes, we see an increase in incidence of our equine viral diseases such as West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. This past summer and fall we saw more cases than several years combined and with exception of one horse, all were unvaccinated animals. Symptoms of the encephalitis type viruses begin with mild flu-like symptoms (lethargy, not wanting to eat or drink, and depression) and progress to high fever, uncoordinated walking, inability to walk/stand, paddling, coma, and then, death. Unfortunately, once the progression begins, it is rare to save these animals.

The best treatment to avoid an untimely death of your horse by a virus like West Nile or Eastern Equine Encephalitis is to VACCINATE!!! We recommend yearly vaccination of your horse and what better time to update those vaccinations than NOW!

The vaccinations Fain & Smathers Veterinary Hospital, Inc. recommends are:

- ***VEWT—FR (Venezuelan, Eastern, Western Encephalitis, Tetanus Toxoid, Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis)
- ***West Nile
- Rabies
- Strangles

Call for an Appointment for a annual check up and vaccinations for your horse(s) TODAY!!!



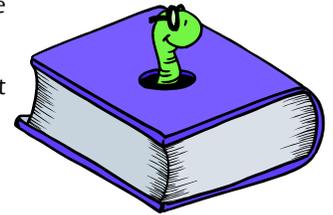
De-worming your Large Animal(s).....

Is your large animal loosing weight or loosing condition? Does their hair-coat not have the sheen that it once did?

All large animals carry intestinal worms. When it comes to de-worming your horse(s), cattle, or small ruminants, the best thing to remember is to check a fecal (a.k.a. stool sample)!!!!

De-worming should be based on each animal's situation. Rotating de-wormers too frequently may cause resistance to products used, while some infrequent rotation helps keep resistance away. Any de-worming program will lose value over time is not double checking by testing a fecal at least every 6 months. A fecal floatation examination will determine the type of eggs and/or worms present in an animal as well as their relative quantities. Pregnant or lactating animals as well as neonates may require special programs as not all products may prove safe.

Bring a stool sample in today and let our veterinarians and staff discuss the de-worming program that best fits your large animal.



Coggins Testing



A Coggins Test is a simple blood test that checks for the presence of the virus that causes Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) in horses, also known as swamp fever. EIA is a blood-borne incurable disease in horses. Since there is no cure or vaccine for the disease, testing is vitally important to the prevention and control of the disease in the United States. Texas requires horses to be Coggins tested annually. The Texas Animal Health Commission requires that horses have a negative Coggins test within the last 12 months with any change of ownership for all equines which are 8 months of age or older, unless they are being sold to slaughter, or a nursing foal with a negative tested dam. Also, any horses boarded within 200 yards of an equine belonging to another

person must be tested negative within the last 12 months, as well as those that utilize publicly accessible equestrian trails or enter parimutuel tracks. Positive horses must be branded and quarantined for life 200 yards from other equine, or be destroyed if quarantine is not possible. When traveling with your horse(s), remember to PLAN AHEAD. Normally it takes 5 to 7 days from the time the blood is drawn from the horse by a veterinarian to the time the lab returns the results. When needed, our hospital can request a "rush" for the results but it still may take 2-3 days for results. **Again....PLAN AHEAD when traveling with your equine!**

2010 Regulations for Texas Cattle (Trichomoniasis Testing)

Excerpt from the Texas Animal Health Commission's letter from the Executive Director:

Thinking about selling, leasing, bartering or even giving away a breeding bull? On January 1, Texas bulls that undergo a change of ownership (except to slaughter) must be either certified as a virgin bull or be tested first for cattle trichomoniasis, a protozoal disease that can cause cows to abort very early in pregnancy. Infected bulls carry the microscopic "bug" that causes trichomoniasis without any signs and can transmit the single-celled protozoa to cows during breeding.



Visit our website @ www.fainandsmathersvet.com. See the link under Medical Services (Large Animal) for the full version of the letter. You may also request brochures regarding this information inside our hospital. Inquire at the front desk.

Pet first aid supplies checklist

From the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) website,
<http://www.avma.org/firstaid/supplies.asp>

<p>Phone numbers and your pet's medical record (including medications and vaccination history)</p> <p>Veterinarian:</p> <p>Emergency veterinary clinic:</p> <p>Animal Poison Control Center: 888-4ANI-HELP (888-426-4435) <i>(there may be a fee for this call)</i></p>	<p>You need to know these numbers before you need them. If you do not know the number of the emergency clinic in your area, ask your veterinarian or go to the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society Web site for a searchable list of emergency clinics by state.</p>
Gauze	For wrapping wounds or muzzling the injured animal
Nonstick bandages, towels, or strips of clean cloth	To control bleeding or protect wounds
<p>Adhesive tape for bandages</p> <p>*Do NOT use human adhesive bandages (eg, Band-Aids®) on pets</p>	For securing the gauze wrap or bandage
<p>Milk of magnesia</p> <p>Activated charcoal</p>	<p>To absorb poison</p> <p><i>Always</i> contact your veterinarian or local poison control center <i>before</i> inducing vomiting or treating an animal for poison</p>
Hydrogen peroxide (3%) or table salt	<p>To induce vomiting</p> <p><i>Always</i> contact your veterinarian or local poison control center <i>before</i> inducing vomiting or treating an animal for poison</p>
<p>Digital Thermometer</p> <p>—you will need a "fever" thermometer because the temperature scale of regular thermometers doesn't go high enough for pets</p>	To check your pet's temperature. Do <i>not</i> insert a thermometer in your pet's mouth—the temperature must be taken rectally.
Eye dropper (or large syringe without needle)	To give oral treatments or flush wounds
Muzzle (in an emergency a rope, necktie, soft cloth, nylon stocking, small towel may be used)	<p>To cover your pet's head.</p> <p>If your pet is vomiting, do <i>not</i> muzzle it!</p>
Leash	To transport your pet (if your pet is capable of walking without further injury)
Stretcher (in an emergency a door, board, blanket or floor mat may be used)	To stabilize the injured animal and prevent further injury during transport