



Snake Bite Emergency Guide for Dogs



Snake bites can be life-threatening.
Quick action can save your dog's life.



SIGNS OF A SNAKE BITE



Sudden yelp or signs of pain



Swelling, redness, or bruising at the bite site



Excessive drooling



Weakness, stumbling, or collapse



Rapid breathing or racing heart



Dilated pupils



Vomiting



Bleeding from gums or nose



WHAT TO DO IMMEDIATELY

- 1 Stay calm and keep your dog still. Movement spreads venom faster.
- 2 Move your dog away from the snake. Ensure your safety first.
- 3 Limit movement. Carry your dog if possible.
- 4 Do not apply a tourniquet or bandage. It can cause more harm.
- 5 Do not cut the bite or suck the venom. This is ineffective and risky.
- 6 Do not apply ice or immerse in water. These can cause tissue damage.
- 7 Get to a veterinarian immediately. Antivenom may be necessary.



Bring the snake only if it's safe to do so. A photo is often helpful.



WHAT NOT TO DO

- ✗ Do not panic.
- ✗ Do not let your dog run or exercise.
- ✗ Do not apply a tourniquet or tight band.
- ✗ Do not cut the wound.
- ✗ Do not try to suck out the venom.
- ✗ Do not apply ice or cold packs.
- ✗ Do not delay veterinary care.



Old or home treatments can do more harm than good.



WHAT YOUR VET WILL DO



Stabilize vital signs



Pain management & antivenom



IV fluids & lab testing



Monitoring for complications



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Primary Veterinarian: _____

Veterinary Phone: _____

Emergency Contact (Person I Trust): _____

Emergency Phone: _____



Know your area: rattlesnakes are common in warm season.



Keep your dog on leash on trails and rocky areas.



Have a pet first aid kit and emergency plan ready.

TRUSTED RESOURCES

- Best Friends Animal Society
- ASPCA
- AVMA



This guide is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional veterinary care. In an emergency, contact your veterinarian or an emergency animal hospital.