

Dog First Aid Guide for Brisbane

This guide provides essential first aid information for dog owners in Brisbane, along with a list of local emergency veterinary services. This information is not a substitute for professional veterinary care. In any emergency, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Understanding Pet First Aid

Understanding pet first aid starts with knowing the basics of your pet's anatomy and being able to recognise their normal behaviour and vital signs. This includes:

- **Heart rate:** Knowing the normal resting heart rate for your pet's species and size.
- **Respiration:** Observing the normal respiratory rate and effort.
- **Temperature:** Being able to take your pet's temperature and know the average healthy range.
- **Behaviour:** Noticing what is typical behaviour for your pet, so you can detect any abnormalities that might indicate distress or illness.

Armed with this knowledge, you'll be better equipped to identify when something is amiss and take swift action.

Essential Pet First Aid Supplies

A well-stocked pet first aid kit is your first line of defence. While you can purchase pre-made kits, creating your own allows you to customise it to your pet's specific needs. Essential items include:

- Gauze pads and rolls
- Adhesive tape
- Cotton balls or swabs
- Antiseptic wipes or spray
- A digital thermometer
- Tweezers and scissors with rounded tips
- A pet carrier
- Emergency contact information: veterinarian, nearest emergency vet clinic, and poison control



Common Pet Emergencies and How to Respond

1. Cuts and Scrapes

First Aid: Clean the wound with antiseptic wipes and apply a clean gauze pad, securing it with adhesive tape. For severe bleeding, apply direct pressure and seek veterinary care immediately.

2. Choking

First Aid: If you can see the object, try to remove it with tweezers. Be careful not to push it further down. If unsuccessful, apply a modified Heimlich maneuver (consult a pet first aid guide for the technique specific to your pet's size and species) and rush to the vet.

3. Poisoning

First Aid: If you suspect your pet has ingested a toxic substance, contact your vet or poison control immediately. Do not induce vomiting unless instructed to do so.

4. Heatstroke

First Aid: Move your pet to a cooler area immediately. Apply cool (not cold) water to their body and offer small amounts of water to drink. Contact your vet right away.

5. Seizures

First Aid: Keep your pet safe by clearing the area of any hard or sharp objects. Do not try to restrain them. Time the seizure, and once it stops, keep your pet warm and quiet. Contact your vet for further instructions.

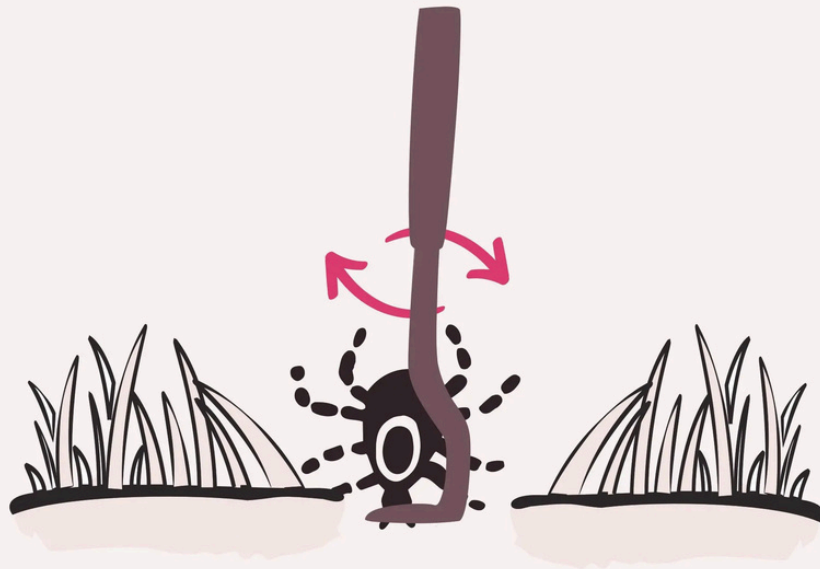
6. Paralysis Ticks

Paralysis ticks are common in Australia and can be fatal. Symptoms include wobbly gait, change in voice, vomiting, and difficulty breathing. If you suspect a paralysis tick, seek immediate veterinary attention.

First Aid: Check your dog thoroughly for ticks, especially around the head, neck, and ears. If you find a tick, remove it carefully with tweezers or a tick removal tool. Even after removal, veterinary attention is crucial as symptoms can worsen.

How to remove a tick from a dog

Step-by-step guide to removing ticks safely using a tick twister.



1. Find the tick

Check ears, eyelids, armpits, groin, between toes and under the tail.

2. Glove up & part the fur

Wear gloves. Gently part the coat to get a clear view.

3. Slide in the tick twister

Position the tool flat against the skin, under the tick's body.

4. Twist steadily

Rotate in one direction until the tick detaches.

5. Check the skin

Make sure the tick is completely removed. If bits remain, keep the area clean and contact your vet.

6. Dispose of the tick

Drop into alcohol, seal in a pot or flush it. Never squash a tick.

7. Clean & reward

Disinfect the area. Praise or treat your dog to help them stay calm next time.

8. Record & watch

Note the tick's location, date and walk. Monitor for signs like limping, fever or tiredness over the next 30 days.

7. Snake Bites

Snake bites are a serious emergency. Symptoms can vary but often include sudden weakness, collapse, vomiting, dilated pupils, and paralysis. Immediate veterinary care is critical.

First Aid: Keep your dog calm and still. Do not attempt to wash the wound or apply a tourniquet.

If possible, apply a pressure immobilization bandage over the bite site and surrounding limb, then transport your dog to the nearest vet immediately.



8. Cane Toad Poisoning

Cane toads are highly toxic to dogs. Symptoms include excessive salivation, vomiting, pawing at the mouth, disorientation, and seizures. Immediate action is required.

First Aid: Rinse your dog's mouth thoroughly with a hose, pointing the head downwards to prevent swallowing. Wipe the gums and tongue with a damp cloth to remove as much toxin as possible. Seek veterinary attention immediately.



Emergency Veterinary Services in Brisbane

Here is a list of 24-hour emergency veterinary hospitals in Brisbane. Always call ahead before arriving.

- **Animal Emergency Service Underwood**
 - Address: 1 Lexington Rd, Underwood QLD 4119
 - Phone: [07 3423 1888](tel:0734231888)
 - Website: animalemergencyservice.com.au
 - **Animal Emergency Centre (AEC) Woolloongabba**
 - Address: 14 Cleveland St, Stones Corner QLD 4120
 - Phone: [07 3456 0500](tel:0734560500)
 - Website: emergencyvet.com.au
 - **Manly Road 24hr Veterinary Hospital**
 - Address: 219 Manly Rd, Manly West QLD 4179
 - Phone: [07 3396 9733](tel:0733969733)
 - Website: manlyroadvet.com.au
 - **BVECCS (Brisbane Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Service) Albany Creek**
 - Address: 53 Old Northern Rd, Albany Creek QLD 4035
 - Phone: [07 3264 9400](tel:0732649400)
 - Website: bveccs.com.au
 - **Animal Emergency Centre (AEC) Kedron**
 - Address: 561 Gympie Rd, Kedron QLD 4031
 - Phone: [07 3350 1333](tel:0733501333)
 - Website: emergencyvet.com.au
 - **Pet Emergency North Lakes (QVS)**
 - Address: 53 Flinders Parade, North Lakes QLD 4509
 - Phone: [1300 753 838](tel:1300753838)
 - Website: pet-emergency.com.au
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Disclaimer: This guide is for informational purposes only and should not replace professional veterinary advice. Always consult a qualified veterinarian for any health concerns or emergencies your pet may experience.