

CHAPTER 3 FIRST AID

FIRST AID

Box 5: First aid

If your dog is showing any of the signs described in chapter 2:



CALL THE VET: Ask for the next available appointment.

and

CONFINE YOUR DOG: Use a pen or very large crate if you have one. Remember to include non-slip flooring, bedding and water.

If you don't yet have a crate or pen, or if your dog is a large breed:

- ✓ Close doors to keep your dog in one room at a time.
 - ✓ Cover any slippery flooring with non-slip matting.
 - ✓ Put a water bowl within easy reach.
 - ✓ Provide bedding at floor level.
 - ✗ Don't let them jump on or off the sofa.
- For advice on setting up a pen or crate, see Chapter 20.



SAFETY ADVICE

Avoid these activities

- ✗ **Jumping** on or off the sofa or your bed
- ✗ **Running**, for example to greet visitors
- ✗ **Stairs**, going up or down
- ✗ **Steps**. For small breeds, this includes any doorsteps.
- ✗ Walking over **slick flooring**
- ✗ Playing with children or other dogs



TIP: If your floor is slick, use any rubber-backed matting to make a non-slip area for your dog. Old yoga mats, bathmats or door mats can be useful.

Only give medication that has been prescribed for your dog by their vet. Never give painkillers from your own medicine cupboard unless your vet has specifically told you to do so.

If they need to go outdoors

While waiting for the vet appointment, keep any outdoor toilet breaks very short – no more than five minutes each. Your dog must be on the lead whenever outdoors. If they have a chest harness, attach the lead to the top of this rather than to a collar.

As soon as your dog has had the chance to pee or poo, bring them back in, lifting them over any steps or slick flooring.

Slow them gently from the lead if they try to rush ahead. On the other hand, they might be unable to walk much or at all. Be prepared to stand still with them, or to walk very slowly by their side or just behind.

If your dog must go outdoors, keep them on the lead at all times.



Figure 16: Keep your dog on the lead at all times when outdoors.

⊘ AVOID THIS... Don't pull your dog forward to make them go faster. Be patient or carry them.



Figure 17 (above left): Carry your dog over any steps or slippery flooring.

Figure 18 (left): If your dog cannot stand or walk without help, support their rear end with a sling.

Figure 19 (above): Improvise if you don't yet have a sling. Loop a scarf or towel under your dog's belly or, for a very small dog, try a fluffy bathrobe belt.



For more details, see:

- ➔ **Setting up the crate or pen, Chapter 20**
- ➔ **Using the lead, Chapter 29**