

Volume

1

ALL CREATURES MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICES

Client Communications

Pet Emergency Manual

2010

CLIENT COMMUNICATIONS

Pet Emergency Manual 2010

This book is sponsored by:

All Creatures MOBILE Veterinary Clinic

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Introduction

The purpose of this book is to provide you, the pet owner, with information you can refer to during an emergency situation with your pet.

Here you will find guidelines you can use to help you determine what you need to do when your pet becomes ill or injured and whether it's an emergency or not.

Remember, if you are not sure if you have an emergency on your hands, ALWAYS err on the side of assuming it is an emergency and take immediate action to ensure the safety of your pet.

Dr. Dave & Linda Hammett



How to use this Book

Sometimes it's hard to know whether your pet is experiencing something minor or the need to be rushed to an emergency pet hospital right away. The information and tips contained in this book can help you decide the best course of action for the situation you're dealing with. We recommend reading the entire book through so that you are familiar with the contents, and then put together the first aid and evacuation kits so they are ready if you need them.

Print the book out and keep a copy with your kits.

In an emergency, scan through the chapter headings to find the information you need.

In an emergency, call your vet FIRST

Don't ever feel embarrassed or hesitate in calling Dr. Hammett at 733-1912 or 423-327-7962 if you have concern about your pet. You are never wrong to call.

Due to the nature of our practice, we cannot take emergencies, but we are blessed in our area to have a superior pet emergency clinic:

Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic
6057 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy
Talbot TN 37877
423-581-9492
Weeknights from 6:00 PM - 7:00 AM
Saturdays from 12 Noon - 7:00 AM Monday morning.

We recommend that you call them in case of an after-hours emergency.

In case of an emergency during regular business hours, we recommend you call any one of the excellent veterinary facilities in our surrounding area.

If you do not have a relationship with any of these facilities, we recommend you consider:

Moyers Veterinary Hospital
2309 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy
Morristown, TN
423-586-3544

Although our service can complete Coggins tests and Health Certificates for large animals, if you need a large or farm animal vet, we recommend:

Mason's Veterinary Care
Dr. Nick Mason
423-272-0444

Where to get Help

If you are away from home, can't find your vet's information or need emergency pet information, if you have access to the internet you can go to VetLocator.com at

<http://www.vetlocator.com>.

VetLocator.com provides a list of emergency pet hospitals that are displayed based on the distance from your location. To search, just click on the Pet Emergencies tab from the home page and enter your zip code. You will be provided with a list of 24 hour emergency pet hospitals within a reasonable driving distance from where you are (if there are any) and if you need someone to talk to, the page also includes emergency hotlines that are manned around the clock.

If you're in an unfamiliar city and do not have access to the internet, look in the phone book under emergency pet hospitals.

Remember, your pet's health is important and knowing where to turn in an emergency is best discovered before an emergency arises. Do your homework now so you won't have to during the middle of a crisis.

When Is It A Real Emergency?

If your pet is experiencing any of the following, bring your pet in immediately for emergency care:

- Your pet has experienced some kind of trauma, such as being hit by a car or a blunt object or falling more than a few feet or has been hit in the head.
- Your pet is bleeding and you can't stop the flow of blood or he is bleeding from the chest.
- Your pet isn't breathing or you can't feel a heartbeat. (See Pet CPR later in this book).
- If your pet has been hit by a car – even if he appears to be acting normally - you need get him checked right away.
- Your pet is unconscious and won't wake up.
- Your pet has been vomiting or has had diarrhea for more than 24 hours, or she is vomiting blood.
- Your pet is having trouble breathing or has something stuck in her throat.
- Your pet has had or is having a seizure.
- Your pet, particularly your male cat, is straining to urinate, or is unable to urinate.
- Your pet shows signs of extreme pain, such as whining, shaking and refusing to socialize.
- Your pet is experiencing acute abdominal pain, yelps when you touch the stomach, is standing with his back arched, or is refusing food.
- Your pet collapses or suddenly can't stand up.
- Your pet begins bumping into things or suddenly becomes disoriented.
- Your cat has bluish or white gums or tongue.
- Your pet has nearly drowned.
- Your pet has been bitten by something poisonous such as a snake, scorpion, spider, etc.
- Your pet has suffered heat stroke.
- Your pet has ingested poison or too much medication.

If you're in an unfamiliar city and do not have access to the internet, look in the phone book under emergency pet hospitals.

Once you decide to bring your pet in for emergency treatment, make sure you know where you're going and how to get your pet there safely. It is a good idea to call ahead if you have any questions about directions or how to move your ill or injured pet, and to let them know you are on your way and what the emergency is.

See the Chapter “A Trip To The Pet Emergency Hospital” later in this book for what to expect if you need to take your pet in.

Be Prepared

The best way to deal with pet emergencies is to prepare for them. Keep Dr. Hammett's name and number (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) on an emergency sheet near the phone, right next to the numbers for your doctor, fire department, and poison-control hotline.

You may also want to have a list of pet first aid tips easily accessible (You can see our Pet First Aid Kit chapter for items to include) and our chapter on giving first aid to your pet “First Aid That Can Save Your Pet's Life”.

The next time your pet is seen for a checkup, ask Dr. Hammett or Linda what you should do in case of an emergency and you need to reach them.

Write down Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic's number, too.

You know and love your pet, and you have the right to be worried if something seems wrong. Emergency veterinary professionals are there for you so don't be shy about asking.

Pet First Aid Kit

It is always best to be prepared for emergencies and this applies to your pet's health as well as to your own. A good suggestion is to have a Pet First Aid Kit handy located near your own First Aid Kit. We've put together a suggestion for what your kit should contain with our Pet First Aid Kit Checklist:

- A card with Dr. Hammett's phone number (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) and Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) and one of the poison hotlines (see below).
- A roll of gauze to cover wounds. Gauze can also be used to wrap around the muzzle or beak of a wounded animal to keep them from biting.
- Non-stick gauze pads for wounds
- Adhesive tape for bandages
- Towels for clean-up, covering the animal while moving or to keep warm.
- Rectal thermometer
- 3% hydrogen peroxide for cleaning wounds
- Eyedropper for giving medicine orally
- Saline solution to flush out debris in the eyes
- A couple of pairs of disposable rubber gloves
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Activated charcoal
- Soap
- Some extra food and treats
- Leash or rope
- Pet CPR reference in this book (and you can also find it on www.vetlocator.com)

You should call your Dr. Hammett or Five Rivers as soon as you can to get advice on what to do in the emergency your pet is going through.

If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, let your veterinarian know, or call the poison hotline immediately. You will be given instructions on how to proceed in the quickest way to help your pet. Remember, it is important not to panic. If you suspect poison, time is critical so telephone someone right away.

Information for the Poison Hotline:

Animal Poison Hotline - a joint service provided by North Shore Animal League America (NSAL) and PROSAR International Animal Poison Center (IAPC).

1-888-232-8870 (\$35.00 per incident). The charge is billed to caller's credit card only.

Staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

Emergency Hotline Numbers

National hotline for reporting lost pets - **1 800 Humane-1 (486-2631)**.

Please note that these operators are not on-site at the shelters but will be taking reports.

ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center -

1-900-443-0000

(\$50.00 per case). The charge is billed directly to the caller's phone.

1-888-4ANI-HELP or **1-888-426-4435**

(\$50.00 per case).

The charge is billed to caller's credit card only. Follow-up calls can be made for no additional charge by dialing **1-888-299-2973**. There is no charge when the call involves a product covered by the Animal Product Safety Service.

Animal Poison Hotline - a joint service provided by North Shore Animal League America (NSAL) and PROSAR International Animal Poison Center (IAPC).

1-888-232-8870 (\$35.00 per incident). The charge is billed to caller's credit card only. Staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

Toll free number: **1-800-858-7378**

Web site: nptn.orst.edu

Taking a Trip to the Emergency Pet Hospital

Like a human hospital emergency room, an emergency pet hospital uses a triage system (meaning giving assistance to the most seriously in need first) to determine the order of treatment. There are no appointments; patients are seen in the order of arrival unless a critical case comes in. And like a human emergency room, doctors and technicians next go to work to check symptoms and vital signs and stabilize the patient.

This can be an uncomfortable place for both you and your pet when you have to go. Most people see their regular veterinarian out of choice, but they go to the emergency clinic by necessity. People take their pets because they are worried about their pet, so emergency veterinarians get used to the barrier of distrust they encounter on their job. The vet knows he/she will be taking a suffering Fido or Fluffy into an area off-limits to family members and they may need to tell the owners that surgery is necessary to save the life of the pet or that treatment will be prolonged, uncomfortable, and expensive.

What you should do before you leave

It is always best to call the hospital before leaving home with a brief report about your pet's condition and an estimated time of arrival. In order to ease the pet's trauma, bring along a blanket or an article of yours because once you get to the hospital it is normal for a technician or assistant to take your pet into the back treatment area for evaluation leaving you to fill out the paperwork the hospital needs. Often the wait is long, sometimes for an hour or more, while the staff takes your pet's vital signs and determines the seriousness of its condition.

What happens after the initial check in process?

Expect the on-duty veterinarian to speak with you before starting critical treatment, even if minutes can make a difference. If surgery or other immediate measures are needed, your pet moves to the top of the line. As his/her owner, you are apprised of the situation and given the options for treatment. You will need to select which of those options you want done before the hospital will proceed.

Emergency Hospitals offer the most advanced treatments, but if finances interfere, they will try and find a solution to fit your budget. However, sometimes surgery is the only option available to handle the problem.

What if my pet has to stay over night?

If your pet is hospitalized for the night, usually you must pick it up the following morning. If continued hospitalization is required, your pet is usually taken to a traditional veterinary clinic for follow-up. The emergency clinic staff will work closely with your pet's regular veterinarian to make sure your pet is recuperating as expected.

Be prepared before an emergency

It is a good idea to know your closest emergency pet hospital and how to get there. You should ask your pet's regular veterinarian who to take your pet to in the event of an emergency.

Once you have that information, put it someplace that is easy access like in your rolodex along with your other emergency numbers.

Hopefully you will never need to use it, but if you do, you will always know where it is.

Again, for those of us Over Home, the closest emergency clinic is:

Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic
6057 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy
Talbot TN 37877
423-581-9492
Weeknights from 6:00 PM - 7:00 AM
Saturdays from 12 Noon - 7:00 AM Monday morning.

Pet CPR & First Aid

Taken from Rescue Critters, www.rescuecritters.com, makers of animal training mannequins.

The following is a simple breakdown of dog & cat CPR. It's written for the average pet owner and in plain language. It uses the common accepted approach to pet cardiopulmonary resuscitation according to excepted standards of Pet First Aid courses throughout the United States.

NOTE: Pet first aid is not intended to take the place of professional veterinary care.

It is recommended that you take a Pet First Aid course from a certified instructor. You can find out more about taking a Pet First Aid course from the Red Cross online at, <http://www.redcross.org>.

ABC's (Airway, Breathing, Circulation)

Airway: Probably one of the most important things you can do after SAFETY is to make sure your dog or cat is breathing. To do this, you want to gently tap your dog or cat and call out their name to see if they move. Then (being careful not to get bitten or scratched) lean down close and LOOK, LISTEN AND FEEL for breathing.

- **Look:** at the chest of the animal to see if it's moving.
- **Listen:** to see if you can hear them breathing.
- **Feel:** on your cheek or back of your hand for a breath.

Breathing: If your dog or cat is not breathing, pull their tongue just a little bit, close the mouth and tilt their head just a little to open their Airway. Give them 4 -5 breaths from your (guess what?) mouth to their nose! This is Mouth-to-Snout resuscitation. You'll want to give them just enough air to make the chest rise. Big dogs need more - little dogs or cats much less. Remember not to give too much air! You don't want to hurt them.

Circulation: This means you're checking to see if their heart is working OK. To do that you must check for a heart beat which is called a pulse.

- There are pulse points located in various areas on your dog or cat. For a dog the best place to find the pulse is on the inside of the rear leg, towards the top of the leg. This is called the Femoral Pulse.
- For a cat the best place to find the pulse is on the outside of the left front leg, just behind the shoulder. This is called an Apical Pulse.

Rescue Breathing

Rescue Breathing is when you have to breathe for your dog or cat because they are not breathing on their own. You do this when your dog or cat has a pulse but is not breathing.

- **Step 1:** First do your ABC's, don't forget to LOOK, LISTEN, and FEEL for breathing.
- **Step 2:** If not breathing, give 4-5 breaths using Mouth-to-Snout resuscitation.
- **Step 3:** Check for pulse on the Femoral Artery for dogs or check the Apical Pulse for cats or really small dogs.
- **Step 4:** If there is a pulse, but no breathing start Mouth-to-Snout resuscitation giving 1 breath every 3 seconds. For cats or really small dogs, give 1 breath every 2 seconds.

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)

CPR: First do your ABC's, don't forget to LOOK, LISTEN, and FEEL for breathing. *CPR can only be performed if your dog or cat is not breathing and has no pulse.*

Follow Steps 1,2,3 same as in Rescue Breathing. If there is no Pulse, start CPR

Dog:

1. Place the dog on the ground or other hard surface with its right side down.
2. Take it's left front leg and bend at the elbow, rotating at the shoulder. The point where the elbow of the dog touches the body is where you place your hands for compressions.
3. Put one hand on top of the other and clasp your fingers together.
4. Lock your elbows and start performing compressions.
5. Push approximately 2-3 inches deep.
6. Give compressions first then a breath.
7. After 1 minute check for a pulse.
8. Repeat if there's no response.

- **Giant Dogs** = Give 1 breath every 10 compressions.
- **Medium to large dogs** = Give 1 breath every 5 compressions.
- **Small Dogs** = Give 1 breath every 5 compressions.

Cats or really small dogs:

1. Place the animal flat on the ground.
2. Then put your hands on either side of the animal's chest, right behind the shoulder blades with your palms over the heart (sandwiching the animal's chest between both hands).
3. Compress approximately 1 inch deep.
4. After 1 minute, check for a pulse again.
5. Repeat if there's no response.

- **Cats or really small dogs** = Give 1 breath every 3 compressions.

General Directions for Emergency First Aid

The purpose of this book is not to provide a complete course in first aid for pets, but to give a pet owner help in dealing with a pet health emergency.

The following section is a general description of administering emergency first aid to an injured pet.

The circumstance surrounding a pet emergency which requires first aid skills varies widely. A pet owner has to take many things into consideration when attempting to help an injured animal including:

- The location of the emergency
- The type of animal injured, age, temperament and its condition.
- Who else is involved (car accident, other animals, other people)
- What kind of condition are you in, physically and emotionally.

Your first thought must be to the safety of yourself and others before attempting to start first aid. Often injured or ill animals become defensive and may bite or attack anyone trying to touch it, so it is wise to enlist the help of someone else if at all possible.

In most cases the first thing you will do is call Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) (keep these numbers in your cell phone).

Start out by giving your name and phone number, and a short account of what happened, including the type of animal, what injuries you can see, what the condition of the animal is (any bleeding and from where, etc.) and what has been done to help so far.

Stay on the phone until the vet or emergency hospital tells you what to do. If the injured pet is a dog, it's important that you make sure the dog is not in a position to bite you as you administer help. Many dogs may bite when hurt or frightened.

If a muzzle is available, it is wise to put it on the dog first thing. If there is no muzzle handy, you can improvise by using a rope or other strong material such as a belt or tie, and wrap it around the muzzle two or three times, being careful to avoid interfering with the dog's ability to breathe. Secure the ends on the back of the dogs head.

Do not use a muzzle if the dog is unconscious, is injured on the mouth or is having difficulty breathing.

In most cases, the traditional veterinary clinic or emergency pet hospital will want you to bring your pet in right away and you'll need to administer the necessary first aid and move your pet to a vehicle for transport (and sometimes pet hospitals will have pet ambulances if this is something you'd prefer).

If your pet was struck by a vehicle and is still in the road, you will need to move him to a safer location before administering first aid.

Make sure that the road is safe before attempting to move the pet. Have someone direct traffic if necessary as you attend to the pet.

It is a good idea to cover the injured pet with a towel, blanket or jacket, including his head, during the move. This helps calm a panicked animal and prevents it from biting or scratching if it becomes frightened.

It is important to note any evidence of head, neck, or spinal injury such as an inability of the animal to move its rear legs before moving. If you observe such evidence, you should place the animal on a flat surface (such as a board) first before moving it to avoid further injury to the spine or neck.

Bleeding

Often pet injuries cause a pet to bleed requiring the owner to control the bleeding while getting the pet medical attention. Here are some things you should know to help stop or stem the flow of blood from an injury to your pet.

External Bleeding

Stopping or slowing external bleeding:

Using a clean cloth or some gauze, gently place it over the injury and apply even pressure to the wound. Allow the cloth to absorb the blood and clot.

If the wound keeps bleeding, apply more gauze or cloth over the first one and continue to apply pressure to the wound.

Once you've stemmed the bleeding you can use tape to secure the pads in place as you transport the pet.

If no cloth or gauze is available, use a clean finger or hand and apply pressure to the wound to stop the bleeding. If the wound is on an extremity such as a leg, you can elevate the wound above the heart to help reduce blood flow to the area.

If the bleeding continues despite the use of direct pressure and elevation, finger or thumb pressure over the main artery to the wound is needed.

Call in the problem to Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) for directions on the location of the artery nearest the wound.

If a pet has suffered severe injury (such as losing a leg or tail), a tourniquet may be required to stop the bleeding and save the pet's life.

The use of a tourniquet can be dangerous and should only be used for a life-threatening hemorrhage.

To create a tourniquet, use a wide piece of cloth, wrap it around the limb twice and tie it into a knot. Insert a short stick or similar object into the knot and twist it, tightening the tourniquet until the bleeding stops. Secure the stick in place with another piece of cloth and note the time.

You need to loosen the tourniquet for 15 to 20 seconds every 20 minutes as you transport your pet to the vet.

Remember, a tourniquet should only be used on a pet as a last-resort, life-saving measure.

Internal Bleeding

Internal bleeding is a life-threatening condition, but it is not obvious like external bleeding.

If you can see blood, the bleeding is external.

Internal bleeding is harder to detect, but there are signs to check for.

If you know your pet has been hit by a car or suffered some other serious impact trauma, you should always have him checked by a vet to insure there is no internal bleeding or injury.

Here are some signs of internal bleeding:

- Your pet's gums, eyelids or tongue is pale or white.
- Your pet's legs, tail and ears are cool or cold.
- Your pet remains agitated or is unusually lethargic.

If you observe any of these symptoms, suspect internal bleeding and immediately get your pet to a veterinarian.

Burns

If your pet has suffered burns from fire, heat or from something electrical, immediately apply cool cloths to the injury, changing the cloths as needed to keep the injury cool and wet for at least 30 minutes.

Call to Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) and explain the injury and get further instructions.

Do not use ointments on burns.

If your pet has suffered burns from contact with caustic chemicals such as acid or strong cleaning supplies, being careful not to get any of the caustic substance on you (wear gloves and brush any powdered substances off the pet), flush the area with cold water for a minimum of 15 minutes. Make sure the water is flowing to wash the substance off your pet (simply immersing the pet in water will not get the substance away from your pet) and make sure you keep the flowing water on the burn for a minimum of 15 minutes.

Contact Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) immediately for further instructions.

Dehydration

Pets can become dehydrated when the temperature soars, when they have been exposed to heat for a prolonged period of time or is left without adequate water.

A pet can also become dehydrated through fever, vomiting and diarrhea.

Some signs that a pet is dehydrated are tongue and mouth are dry and the saliva is thick. Their eyes may appear dull and sunken.

Try the simple skin turgor test:

- Pull the skin that is over your pet's chest or back up about an inch and release it quickly
- Watch as the skin as it returns to its resting position.

If your pet's hydration is normal the skin will return to its normal position quickly.

If the skin returns slowly or remains up, your pet may be mildly to seriously dehydrated and need veterinary attention.

You need to get the pet into a cool environment (not cold) to help gradually cool its body.

If the dehydration appears to be severe, call to Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) for instructions.

If it appears mild (skin returned to its normal position a little slowly), give your pet frequent, small amounts of water to drink.

Limit the amount of water you give at one time and don't allow free access to water.

Do not let your pet eat dry food.

Heat Stroke

Any time a pet's body temperature is higher than 106 degrees, a true emergency exists.

The most common sign of heat stroke is vigorous panting. The pet is likely to be lying on its side, unable to stand, although some are restless and agitated.

There may be thick, ropy saliva in the mouth or froth coming from the mouth and/or nose.

The pet may show signs of shock.

Rapidly cooling the pet is extremely important.

Tap water (not ice water) is best for effective cooling.

A pet suffering from heat stroke should be seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

If your pet shows signs of heat stroke:

- Get the pet into a cool, not cold, environment immediately and if there is a fan available, direct it on the pet.
- If possible, determine rectal temperature and record.
- Begin to cool the body by wetting with cool (not cold) water on the body and legs.
- You can use rubbing alcohol on the skin of the stomach and use the fan to speed evaporation and cool the pet.
- Do not leave your pet unattended for any length of time.
- Get your pet to the veterinarian as soon as possible.

Near Drowning

If your pet has suffered a near drowning, take the following steps:

- Remove the pet from the water.
- Place him on his side with his head and neck extended with his head slightly lower than the body if possible.
- Pull the tongue forward and gently push on the chest wall and stomach to expel any water from the lungs and stomach.
- Begin CPR as required.
- Cover the pet to keep him warm.
- Seek veterinary help as soon as possible.

Fever

If your pet feels warm to the touch or you suspect he has a fever (looks lethargic, is acting ill, etc.), do the following:

- Take and record the rectal temperature. If it is above 103 degrees, you should call your veterinarian and get instructions. Temperature elevations above 106 degrees are life threatening and need immediate attention.
- If your pet's temperature is over 105 degrees, mix one half water and one half rubbing alcohol and sponge this on your pet. Get a fan pointed at your pet and turn it on. The alcohol/water mixture will evaporate and help cool the body.
- Apply a cool pack or alcohol and water compress to the top of the head to help protect the brain.
- See if your pet will drink water and if so, give him small, frequent quantities of water, but don't force him to drink if he refuses.
- Discontinue cooling once the rectal temperature reaches 103 degrees.
- Do not give aspirin or other drugs. Many of these drugs are poisonous to pets.
- Get your pet to the vets as soon as possible.

Poisoning

If you suspect that your pet has consumed a substance that is poisonous, you'll need to determine what the poison was so you can tell your veterinarian or the poison hotline.

You'll need to answer the following questions:

- What product caused the poisoning and how much was ingested?
- When did the poisoning occur?
- What symptoms is your pet exhibiting?
- Can you retrieve a container or label from the poisonous substance to determine the active ingredient?
- Follow the instructions of the veterinarian or the poison control center.

How To Prepare In The Event Of A Disaster

It's a fact of life that disasters can and do strike all parts of the US. From the tornadoes in Middle Tennessee to Hurricane Katrina to the recent Midwest floods, to the firestorms in California, natural disasters can strike anywhere at any time.

You can take steps now to make plans for you and your animals in the event of a disaster.

Start by assembling your animal evacuation kit and first aid kit.

Make sure your pet carriers are in good shape and they have your contact information permanently affixed to them. (see information included in evacuation kit chapter).

Know your evacuation routes and where your pets would be transported in the event you are separated during the disaster.

Make a list of boarding facilities, vet clinics and shelters that accept pets during a catastrophe.

Make arrangements with nearby neighbors to check on your pets in the event you are absent from home when a disaster hits. Leave instructions with them along with the location of food and pet supplies in your home and contact information and provide a signed letter that releases your neighbor from responsibility, should one of your animals become injured, and a signed veterinary medical treatment authorization form.

Make arrangements for you and your pets to stay with friends or relatives living out of your immediate area if you need to evacuate.

Keep emergency cash on hand and keep vehicles gas tanks full.

Keep a car cell phone charger in your automobile to keep your cell phone working in the event of a power failure.

If you have warning of a potential disaster threat (such as a hurricane or flooding), bring all animals inside. You may wish to confine cats to a small room or pet carrier so they are easier to find. Confine your pets to their carriers with their collars and ID tags on during the disaster in the event you need to leave suddenly.

Keep your evacuation and first aid kits nearby and topped off with necessary supplies.

If you receive a warning that mandatory evacuation may be required, leave early taking your pets with you as you may not be able to return.

Prepare stickers to be placed on your front and back doors to notify neighbors and rescue personnel that animals are in your home and where to find your evacuation supplies. Provide a list of the number, type, and location of your animals, noting favorite hiding spots, in order to save precious rescue time.

If you must leave your pet at home during a disaster confine your pets to a small room and leave plenty of food and water for them. If possible, visit your pet(s) daily until you can return home.

Develop contingency plans in case you are in an accident, become ill, or otherwise are unable to care for your pets.

Keep a card on you, in your vehicle, and on the refrigerator that has your name; phone number; address; a description of your pets (distinguishing marks, age, breed, sex, spayed, neutered, etc.); the names of your pets; microchip IDs; pet insurance policy number; and the address and phone number where you or a contact person can be reached if you are not at home.

Also include information as to where your pets are (including favorite hiding spots), any medications they are taking, the name of your veterinarian, and who to contact regarding them.

That contact person should know your vet, and know where you keep your pet's medications and where medical records are stored.

How to Move an Injured Pet

After contacting to Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) and then administering first aid to your pet, you'll usually need to get the pet to the veterinarian for further treatment.

Here are some general guidelines to help in the safe transportation of your pet:

- Keep the pet as still as possible and try to make him comfortable by encouraging him to lie down and stay.
- Smaller dogs and cats can most effectively be transported in commercially available carriers or in a cardboard box with a lid.
- Be very gentle when moving or handling the pet to lessen the chance of further injury.
- Lie your pet on his side unless your pet seems to be uncomfortable or has trouble breathing when you do this. If this is the case, leave the pet as he is.
- It is best to keep your pet as still you can when moving him or her. This is especially important if you suspect your pet has a back injury or is unconscious.
- For back or spinal injuries, immobilize the pet by sliding a board or other flat rigid item under him, then, keeping the back and neck as straight as possible, tie or tape your pet to the support.
- If your pet has vomited or has a head injury, position the head in a lowered position so that vomit will not cause your pet to choke or suffocate.
- Keep your pet covered or wrapped in a blanket (unless you suspect a spinal injury). A blanket has a calming effect on your pet and also keeps him warm.
- Call ahead and let the traditional veterinary clinic or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492) know you are on your way and to expect you. Get exact directions if you are not familiar with the facility, and provide as much information for them as you can before you get there.
- Drive carefully.

Evacuation Kit for Your Pets

In recent times there have been many stories of natural disasters causing people to flee their homes with just their pets and a few belongings.

To be prepared for such an emergency, here are some things you can have eady to take with you to help with the safety of your pet and to improve the chances of recovering your pet should you become separated during the evacuation.

- Two weeks supply of dry food for each pet in your house.
- Two weeks supply of water (1 quart per day per pet)
- Food and water dishes
- Your pet's favorite treats.
- Pet toys
- Flashlight
- Extra leashes and collars
- Muzzle and harness for dogs
- Cat litter and small litter box for cat.
- Pet ID Tags with your home and cell phone numbers on them, rabies tag and license.
- Towels
- Pet carrier with the following information indelibly printed: your name; phone number; address; name and description of your pet; microchip ID; In a waterproof bag –
- Pet information including your name; phone number, alternate number; address, name and description of pet, microchip id#.
- Recent photographs of you and your pet with pet information on the back
- Pet's vaccination and medical records and medicine information
- Pet's veterinary contact information
- Copies of proof of ownership papers – Registration information, adoption papers, proof of purchase.
- Paper towels
- Baggies
- Blankets
- Two weeks supply of medication and any supplements along with instructions for using them.
- First aid kit
- You can store the evacuation kit in a plastic tub or crate, and keep it near your pet's carrier for easy access.
- Make sure you rotate the food in your kit once every 3 months to ensure it remains fresh enough for your pet to eat.

Pet Emergency Information:

Pet's Name:				
Pet's Age:				
Regular Vet's Name, address and phone:	Dr. David Hammett 733-1912			
Emergency Vet's name address and phone:	Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic 423-581-9492			
Neighbor or friend's contact info:				
Medications:				
Special Instructions:				
Notes:				

Conclusion

Many other types of emergencies can, and do, occur when you own a pet.

If you have questions concerning symptoms your pet is exhibiting, seek advice from Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962) or Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic (423-581-9492).

Emergency centers (where after-hours care is provided), and critical care centers (where 24-hour care is provided) are becoming more prevalent.

Remember the location and hours of operation of the our closest facility

Five Rivers Pet Emergency Clinic

6057 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy

Talbot TN 37877

423-581-9492

Weeknights from 6:00 PM - 7:00 AM

Saturdays from 12 Noon - 7:00 AM Monday morning.

and keep this information handy where you can find it when you need it (including adding the address and phone number to your cell phone contact list – right next to Dr. Hammett (733-1912 or 423-327-7962)).

If you do have a pet emergency, if at all possible, try to call first before bringing your pet in. Often Five Rivers can give you over-the-phone help and information while you are bringing your pet to them that can help save your pet's life.

It is our hope that you never need to use the information contained in this book, but it is wise to know and be prepared for any emergencies before they arise.

May you enjoy many wonderful and loving years with your pets,

All Creatures MOBILE Veterinary Service

Dr. David Hammett & Linda Hammett

PHONE: 733-1912 or 423-327-7962

FAX: 630-566-2312

www.all-creatures-vet.com

Email: service@all-creatures-vet.com

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