



Wound Care

Our pets easily get cuts and scrapes just as we do. Minor ones can be treated at home, but some need to be examined and treated by a veterinarian to avoid potentially serious complications or infection.



Serious Signs

Some signs indicate the need for an exam so the situation doesn't get worse. If you aren't sure, always play it safe and have your pet examined. We can give you an ointment to relieve pain and speed up healing at home. If you notice these signs, your pet needs an exam:

- Signs of infection including redness, swelling, or drainage that looks thicker than water
- A puncture wound (these get infected more easily)
- A wound from an animal bite (usually needs antibiotics)
- Your pet is in pain
- Your pet is lethargic and not feeling well
- The wound keeps bleeding and you can't get it to stop
- A cut longer than ½ inch (it probably needs stitches)

Treatment of Minor Wounds

If a wound is bleeding, stop the bleeding first. Apply pressure to the area for a few minutes. Clean any wound or sore with warm water and soap. If there is any depth to it, flush it with hydrogen peroxide as well.

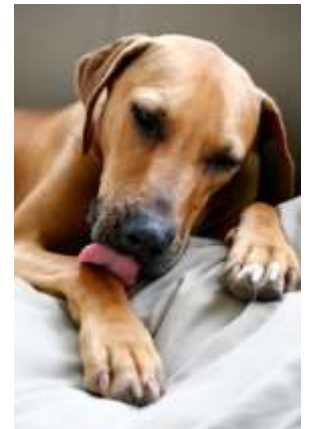
Have a veterinarian examine any puncture wounds to decide if antibiotics are needed. These can often lead to serious problems if not treated quickly.

Wrap lightly if needed to protect it. Be very cautious with any bandage you put on your pet. If wrapped too tightly on a leg, it can cut off the circulation and the area below the bandage will swell up.

Look at a bandage on a leg several times a day to make sure it's not too tight. Remove a bandage at least once a day to look at the wound for any signs of infection or not healing. Be sure your pet can't chew off the bandage.

Need for Exam

If any signs of infection develop, if the wound hasn't healed within 7 days, or if your pet becomes painful or suddenly starts licking the area, have a veterinarian examine your pet right away. All of these are signs that something is wrong.



If your cat has a wound and you don't know what caused it, always have it examined. Cat wounds are often from bites and if not treated with antibiotics quickly, they can abscess and cause serious complications.