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Building Your Own Doggy First Aid Kit

If you'd like to make your own first aid kit for common dog complaints/injuries, here are suggestions on components to include. This list is quite extensive and designed more as a car kit or home care kit. If you were going on a backpack trip you'd need to scale it down. If you already have a first aid kit for people, you may be duplicating items, so check what you already have. You can buy ready-made kits, but building your own is much less expensive.

Wound Management

Iodine Solution

Triple Antibiotic Ointment

Hydrogen Peroxide

Cleansing Pads with Lidocaine

Nitrile Gloves

Tissue or Crazy Glue (make sure you have experience/instruction on irrigating and cleaning a wound before attempting to close a wound)

Kwik stop for blood clotting

20 cc Irrigation syringe (this can also be used to administer liquid med)

Abdominal bandage to seal large wounds (saran wrap actually works well)

Cotton Applicator

Bandage Materials

Waterproof tape

Co-flex tape

2x2 and 4x4 gauze

5x8 and 8x10 pads

1-2 inch stretch gauze

Ace bandage with Velcro

Medicines -- always check with your vet before administering medications

Mylanta Tabs

Immodium

Coated Aspirin (must be buffered and no ibuprofen or acetaminophen)

Antihistamines

Cortisone

Karo syrup or glucose paste for shock

Pedialyte for rehydration

Syrup of Ipecac to induce vomiting
Saline solution as a wound cleanser and eye wash
Insect Relief Pads

Medical Instruments

Rectal Thermometer
Blunt Scissors
Tweezers
EMT Shears
Hemostats (good for getting out hard to reach cheat grass or other foreign items stuck in the back of the throat or ear)

Essential Items

LED penlight
Ready made hot and cold packs
Cloth Tie to use as an emergency muzzle (long strips of gauze work well too)
Bag Balm which helps to protect dog's pads
Space Blanket for shock
First Aid book which includes instruction on CPR, poisonings, Heimlich, and back/neck injuries

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