

First aid for heavy bleeding

Overview

- If your pet loses a lot of blood, they may go into shock, collapse, or even die.
- If your pet is bleeding heavily, find where the blood is coming from, apply pressure and call your vet.
- Call your vet immediately if you can't control your pet's bleeding or you think they might be bleeding internally.

What to do if you see your pet is bleeding



Step one: **Find where the blood is coming from**

- Check your pet for wounds, bleeding and bruises.
- Go slowly and carefully, even the friendliest pet can scratch or bite if they are painful. If necessary use a muzzle or towel to protect yourself, stop if you think you might get hurt.
- If your pet has collapsed, contact your vet immediately.

Step two: **Apply pressure**

- Once you have found where the blood is coming from, apply pressure to the bleed by holding a clean cloth or bandage over it.
- Don't remove the bandage to see if the bleeding has stopped - this is likely to disrupt any clots and cause the bleeding to start again.

Step three: **Contact your vet**

- Phone your vet - they will tell you what to do next and book you an emergency appointment if needed.
- If you need to move your pet, do it carefully and avoid touching their injuries.

What to do if you think your pet is bleeding internally

Step one: **Check for symptoms of internal bleeding**

- If your pet is bleeding internally you may notice symptoms such as
 - Weakness/ collapse
 - Cold feet/tail/ears
 - Bruising
 - Pale gums
 - Difficulty breathing
 - A swollen belly

Step two: **Call your vet**

- Call your vet immediately - internal bleeding is often life threatening.

Published: March 2020