

TRAUMA IN DOGS

Recognising, Responding & Getting Emergency Care

Trauma can happen in an instant. Quick action and prompt veterinary care can save your dog's life.

If your dog is injured, seek veterinary attention immediately.

! Trauma is a medical emergency. Every minute counts.



1 WHAT IS TRAUMA?

Trauma refers to physical injuries caused by a sudden event.

Common causes include:

- Road traffic accidents
- Falls from heights
- Dog fights
- Bite wounds
- Being hit by objects
- Crush injuries
- Gunshot or other trauma



2 DID YOU KNOW?

Even minor injuries can hide major internal damage.

Some injuries may not show obvious signs at first.

Keeping your dog calm and still can prevent further injury.

Early treatment greatly improves outcomes.



3 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Signs of trauma may include:

- ✓ Bleeding
- ✓ Difficulty breathing
- ✓ Pale gums
- ✓ Collapse or weakness
- ✓ Limping or unable to walk
- ✓ Whining or restlessness
- ✓ Swelling or bruising
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Seizures
- ✓ Shock (cold extremities, weak pulse)

! Some dogs may appear calm but still have life-threatening injuries.



4 WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If your dog is injured:

- ✓ Ensure your own safety
- ✓ Keep your dog calm and still
- ✓ Do not move your dog unless in immediate danger
- ✓ Control any bleeding with clean cloth or pressure
- ✓ Seek veterinary care immediately
- ✓ Call ahead if possible
- ✓ Bring your dog in as safely as possible

DO NOT:

- ✗ Give food or water
- ✗ Attempt to realign bones
- ✗ Remove objects from wounds
- ✗ Use human medications
- ✗ Delay treatment



5 COMMON INJURIES

- Fractures
Broken or cracked bones
- Head Injuries
Concussion, bleeding, or skull fractures
- Chest Injuries
Rib fractures, lung injuries, breathing problems
- Abdominal Injuries
Internal bleeding, organ damage
- Wound Injuries
Cuts, punctures, bite wounds

! Internal injuries may not be visible but can be life-threatening.

6 HOW TRAUMA IS DIAGNOSED

Your veterinarian may perform:

- Physical examination
- X-rays
- Ultrasound
- Blood tests
- Urine tests
- Monitoring vital signs
- Advanced imaging if needed



7 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment will depend on the type and severity of injury and may include:

- Pain relief
- Wound cleaning and repair
- Fracture stabilisation or surgery
- Intravenous fluids
- Oxygen therapy
- Blood transfusion
- Hospitalisation and monitoring
- Emergency surgery



+ Your vet will provide the best care plan for your dog's recovery.

8 PREVENTION TIPS

Reduce the risk of trauma by:

- ✓ Using seatbelts or travel crates in cars
- ✓ Supervising dogs outdoors
- ✓ Secure fencing and gates
- ✓ Keeping hazards out of reach
- ✓ Avoiding high-risk areas
- ✓ Training and recall practice
- ✓ Regular health check-ups



WHEN TO SEEK IMMEDIATE VETERINARY CARE



Hit by a car or vehicle



Fall from a height



Involved in a dog fight



Trouble breathing



Heavy bleeding



Collapse or unconsciousness

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Keep emergency vet contact details handy.
- Have a pet first aid kit at home and in the car.
- Stay calm – your calmness helps your dog.
- Follow your vet's advice for the best outcome.



! EVERY SECOND COUNTS

If your dog is injured, don't wait. Seek veterinary care immediately.

+ Prompt treatment can save your dog's life.

