

Pet First-aid Kit FOR RV TRAVEL

As full-time RVers, my husband, Erick, and I keep a pet first-aid kit handy in the event that our pets need minor medical care before we can get them to a veterinary clinic. We boondock frequently and stay in remote RV parks where medical care may not be available. I've compiled a list of supplies for a pet first-aid kit as well as additional items recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association. I've also included items suggested by RVers I've met on the road.

Pet First-Aid Kit Supplies

Medical Records: Include a list of medications and dates of vaccinations. Add your pet's veterinarian contact information as well as the Animal Poison Control Center, phone number (888-426-4435; charges may apply). Upon arrival in a town, look up phone numbers and addresses of emergency vet clinics at MyVeterinarian.com and post it where it can be easily accessed.

Extra leash: Keep an extra leash for moving your pet if it can walk without injuring itself further.

Muzzle: While injured, a muzzle may be necessary to prevent a pet from hurting you or itself. Items like gauze, a necktie, soft cloth, nylon stocking or small towel can be used in the place of a commercially made muzzle. *Never muzzle an animal that is vomiting.*

Digital Thermometer/Water-based Jelly: Include a fever thermometer. A pet's temperature is too high for a regular thermometer. The jelly is to lubricate the thermometer before insertion. The pet's temperatures should only be taken rectally.

Hydrogen Peroxide: A 3% solution of hydrogen peroxide is used to induce vomiting. Use only after consulting with a vet or the Animal Poison Control Center. Follow their instructions for dosage.

Wound Care Items: Nonstick bandages, strips of clean cloth or towels and/or Vet Wrap for wounds that are bleeding or need to be protected.

Adhesive Tape for Bandages: Used to keep gauze wrap or bandages securely in place around a wound.

Syringe, Baster and Eye Dropper: An eyedropper, turkey baster and/or large syringe with no needle can be used for administering oral medications, inducing vomiting and/or flushing wounds.

Prescription Medications: As a backup, have a few day's worth of your pet's prescription medication available in case you run out. This includes any pain medication prescribed for your pet.

Stretcher: A board, blanket, towel or floor mat can be used as a stretcher to safely transport your pet from one location to the next. It can be difficult to lift large dogs without one.

These items are not a substitution for veterinary care and should only be used to buy time until your pet can be taken to a clinic. Keep your pet's first-aid kit handy and fully stocked. It will give you the peace-of-mind you'll need as you travel with your furry friends.

Please keep in mind that cats and dogs cannot always use the same medications. Consult with your veterinarian before giving any human, over-the-counter medications to your pets.

Jeannie Dees #54504

JEANNIE DEES, former teacher and dog trainer, and her husband, Erick Young, have traveled full-time with their pets since 2015. Jeannie enjoys helping other RVer pet owners online at TiresAndTails.com and through Facebook groups: facebook.com/groups/tiresandtails and facebook.com/groups/tiresandtailscats.

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Additional Items

These additional items can also be useful to keep in your pet's first-aid kit.

- Tweezers
- Tick removal tool
- Meclizine (Dramamine II, Bonine, Antivert) for motion sickness:
- For general upset stomach: Bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto Bismol in liquid or tablet form), Pepcid AC, Zantac
- In case of diarrhea: Imodium AD, metronidazole (by prescription)
- Benadryl for allergic reactions
- Styptic powder or pencil, or cornstarch to stop bleeding after nail trims
- Eye drops/eye wash
- Baby aspirin
- Antibiotic cream
- Saline solution for cleaning wounds
- Antiseptic wipes, lotion or spray
- Cotton balls or swabs
- Non-latex disposable gloves
- Scissors with blunt ends