



# Puppy Raiser Emergency Procedures & Contacts

## Emergency Protocols

In the event of an emergency, you will need to be as best prepared as possible.

- Have the phone numbers of your regular and emergency veterinarians easily accessible. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the route to both veterinarians.
- Call the veterinarian prior to arriving so they can adequately prepare for the puppy.
- When contacting the veterinarian, have the following information available:
  - Program puppy's Name
  - Age
  - Breed
  - Sex
  - Weight
  - Symptoms
  - Number & type of animals involved, if known
  - Toxin/Agent exposed to, if known
- Bring the items involved with the emergency if possible. This includes chewed materials, vomit, fecal matter, prescriptions if they had swallowed a pill, etc.

## What Constitutes as an Emergency

To determine what constitutes an emergency? Think of it in terms of will this threaten the program puppy's life? There is a difference between a program puppy suffering from an upset stomach resulting in a little bit of diarrhea, or eating a foreign object causing an obstruction in the digestive track resulting in bloat which can potentially be fatal. Here are some things to look at when evaluating the level of urgency, if a program puppy exhibits any of the following, take them to the vet immediately:

- **Severe Allergic Reaction-** Swollen body parts (face, ears, lips, eyelids or earflaps), itchiness, hives, difficulty breathing, red/inflamed skin, diarrhea, vomiting, and sneezing.
  - What can cause a severe allergic reaction- vaccines, medications, bee stings, food, etc.
- **Fever-** a fever in a dog is considered when body temperatures rise above 103 degrees F and can be lethal when temperatures reach 106 degrees F. Signs of fever include; red or glassy eyes, panting, shivering, runny nose, lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, coughing, warm ears and/or nose.
  - What can cause a fever- bacterial/fungal/viral infections, infected wound, tooth infection or abscess, urinary tract infections, ear infections, ingested toxins.
- **Open Wounds-** an open wound would be considered an emergency if it requires stitches, bleeds continuously, or was caused by another animal.

- **Motor Vehicle Accident-** If the program puppy was hit by a motor vehicle, or anything similar, take them to the veterinarian immediately, even if you don't see a physical injury, something could have been damaged internally.
- **Seizures-** signs of seizures include suddenly inability to balance or walk, air snapping, stiffen or fallen to the side, foaming at the mouth or excessive drool, confused, loss of consciousness, loss of bodily functions, urinating or defecating, shaking/twitching, laying on side and continuously kicking.
  - What can cause a seizure- epilepsy, trauma to the brain, tumors, exposure to toxins, and infectious diseases such as rabies.
- **Ingestion-** ingestion could range from the program puppy ingesting a small rock or piece of toy, to ingesting an entire toy or something toxic. If you know for sure that they only ingested a small piece of toy or wrapper and you know that it isn't toxic, there may be no need to panic as it should pass naturally. However, if you are unsure of the item ingested, or the actual amount, it will be best to consult with a veterinarian. Ingesting a large amount of anything can cause a blockage in the program puppy's digestive system, or if the item is toxic can cause a range of issues from upset stomach to potential death if not treated.

## Emergency Contacts

**DBL Staff Representative:** you will receive a business card with your region's DBL representative's business number.

- Please call your DBL Staff Representative during business hours (Mon-Fri 8- 4:30 pm).

**DBL After-hours Emergency Line: (541)423-8382**

- Please call this number after normal business hours.

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 1(888)426-4435**

- In case of poisoning or suspected poisoning, please contact this number. There is a charge, but in many cases the ER veterinarian will need to call anyways and will charge you for the call and their time.