

### **PET HEALTH EMERGENCIES: ARE YOU PREPARED?**

Do you feel confident that you can safely and efficiently get your pet to emergency services at a moment's notice if you need to?

Adrenaline can be a lifesaver, but it can also hijack your brainpower. The moment you realize your pet has an emergency, your body will kick you into high gear, giving you power to move faster and quicker than you would normally be able to, which can save your life and the

lives of others. However, recruiting most of the body's blood supply, including what the brain needs to think, is what creates that strength. So, while the body is empowered, the brain is left drained.

For this reason, it is essential to develop an emergency plan ahead of time, when you're not in a fight-or-flight state and your brain can play a lead role in saving your pet's life.

Have the contact information for the nearest Animal Emergency Center at the ready. Have this saved into your phone, in a place you can easily find in your home (e.g., on your refrigerator), in your car, and in any other place your pet often is, such as with a pet sitter. Have the ASPCA poison control hotline number (888-426-4435) listed in your phone contacts as well.

Know the route to get to the emergency hospital of your choosing. Having this route mapped out ahead of time will make for a much more efficient and safe drive to the hospital. Most map apps have "favorites," so it's a good idea to add in the address of the emergency clinic into your map app.

Bring any medications your pet is taking as well as any suspected poison they may have been exposed to.

If you haven't already spoken with us about a preventive care plan, don't let more time go by. Prevention is key to diagnosing and treating abnormalities before they turn into disease or injury.

There is no question that the adage 'an ounce of prevention equals a pound of cure' holds true for veterinary medicine. Early detection of any problem through regular examinations and blood work and urinalysis is critical to successful management.

Pet insurance can be a life saver. So have your pet insured. An emergency visit and the necessary care will often lead to big bills. However, if you have pet insurance, this surprise cost may be



## SunShine Animal Hospital Client Education Series

---

covered. This will ensure that your pet will get the care he or she needs, and the financial burden will not get in the way. One of the more common reasons that people express as the reason for their reluctance to go to an emergency clinic is the cost. Having purchased pet insurance beforehand is an excellent way to lessen the stress and financial burden of these visits.

Of course, the hope is that you never have to put your emergency plan into action, but unfortunately emergencies do happen. Take the time now to gather the information you need, so if you have to act quickly to save your pet, all you need to do is reference the information you've already collected.