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PRIMARY + SPECIALTY + EMERGENCY/URGENT CARE

National Pet First Aid Awareness Month

April is National Pet First Aid Awareness Month, and we encourage all pet owners to familiarize themselves with what constitutes an emergency for their pets and to know what to do in an emergency (aside from heading to your veterinarian for necessary assistance).

Knowing what an emergency looks like is of utmost importance, especially in exotic pets, who are so skillful at hiding pain and illness. Any change in your pet's appetite, urination, or defecation is a signal that something is wrong. Whether this constitutes an emergency is dependent on the type of pet and the duration of symptoms. Adult reptiles, for example, can go without food for a longer period than juvenile reptiles or birds and small mammals of any age. In cases of rabbits, guinea pigs, or chinchillas, going even 24 hours without eating should be treated as an emergency, as their condition can quickly become life-threatening.

Any pet having difficulty breathing, gasping, open-mouth breathing, or heaving for breath should be considered an emergency and brought to a veterinarian for assessment and supportive care immediately. Any type of seizure, flipping, rolling, or spasms should also be addressed immediately.

Bleeding from a torn nail or blood feather can often be staunched at home using styptic powder, but if it recurs or continues, it needs to be treated as an emergency.

Having the right tools on hand to address your pet's immediate needs prior to contacting your veterinarian can be lifesaving.

We recommend having a Pet First Aid Kit at hand. Our online pharmacy features this one, which has everything you need to address common injuries and make your pet comfortable until you can get veterinary assistance.

<https://exoticvetcare.myvetstoreonline.pharmacy/shop/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10101&productId=62011&langId=-1&storeId=10152>



Our Emergency page gives you detailed information on recognizing, stabilizing, and dealing with exotic pet emergencies, and we recommend reviewing the species-specific information on your pet so you know ahead of time how to respond when your pet is in need. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Do not hesitate to reach out via phone, app, or email if you have any concerns about your exotic pet. We are here for you and want to help you keep your pets safe and healthy for life.

"Your Exotic Pet Specialist"

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