

Home Remedies

ACONITE (Homeopathic aconite)

Use: Aconite is a pill used in dogs to calm their fears of storms, fireworks, etc. It can be purchased on-line or at GNC stores. It comes in 6C, 12C or 30C - all three sizes are safe to use and are non-toxic.

Dose: Small dogs (1-15 lbs.) Give 4 tablets twice daily

Medium dogs (16-50 lbs.) Give 6 tablets twice daily

Large dogs (over 50 lbs.) Give 8 tablets twice daily

ALLERGY RINSE

Use: This is a rinse that is applied to cats or dogs when the pet owner is allergic to that pet.

Method: First, mix 9 parts warm water with 1 part white vinegar into a gallon pail. Sponge over the dog or cat thoroughly. Then, mix 1 gallon of warm water and 1 capful of Downey fabric softener. Sponge mixture over the pet, do NOT rinse. Let air-dry. This can be applied every 2 to 6 wks.

ALLERGY TREATMENT FOR DOGS

Benadryl

Use: This is an over-the-counter anti-histamine that can be used to decrease mild allergy signs in dogs, such as itching and congestion. It comes in a liquid children's elixir (12.5 mg /tsp.) or in 25 mg or 50 mg capsules or pills. Do Not Use Any Product That Contains Xylitol. Read The Label! Xylitol is toxic to dogs and potentially cats.

Dose: Use 1 mg/lb. by mouth up to 3 times/day as needed.

ALLERGY TREATMENT FOR CATS

Chlorpheniramine

Use: This is an over-the-counter anti-histamine that can be used to decrease mild allergy signs in cats, such as itching and congestion. It comes in 4 mg tablets.

Dose: Give 1/2 of a 4 mg tablet by mouth up to twice daily as needed.

BEE STINGS/INSECT BITES - Canine

Benadryl

Use: This is an over-the-counter anti-histamine that can be used for hives, facial swelling and inflammation that may occur after a dog has been stung by a bee or spider.

Dose: Use 1 mg/lb. by mouth up to 3 times/day as needed.

Ice pack wrapped in a small towel can also be applied to the affected skin.

BLAND DIET

Canine bland diet:

Use: A bland diet can be offered to a dog that has mild gastro-intestinal upset. This diet is meant to be fed for a few days only.

Method: Mix 3 parts boiled rice with 1 part cooked chicken or lean ground beef. It is best to feed small, frequent meals to a dog that has an upset stomach. Gradually reintroduce your pet to his regular diet by mixing the bland diet with the regular diet over a few days.

Feline bland diet:

Use: A bland diet can be offered to a cat that has mild gastro-intestinal upset. This diet is meant to be fed for a few days only.

Method: Plain meat baby food (such as Gerber's chicken or turkey) fed 1-2 teaspoons at a time, warmed.

EAR CLEANER

Mix 2 parts rubbing alcohol with 1 part white vinegar. This mixture can be instilled into a dog's ear.

Gently massage the ear solution into the ear for 15-30 seconds, and then wipe out excess with a cotton ball. This can be repeated no more than every other day as needed. Do NOT use this solution if the ear is inflamed or sore - the rubbing alcohol will sting!

NAIL BLEEDING TREATMENT

If you cut a nail too short, it will bleed. Prior to cutting your pet's nails, it's a good idea to have

Quik-stop (available at pet stores) on hand. Apply Quik-stop directly to the bleeding nail with direct pressure until the bleeding stops. If you don't have Quik-stop, cornstarch will also work.

SKUNK DE-ODORIZER

Mix 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide + 1/4 cup of baking soda + 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap

(Dawn dish soap works well) -mix the ingredients and use immediately. The chemical reaction produced from these ingredients lasts only a limited time.

Do NOT wet the dog first!!!

Pour the solution over your pet, rub it in thoroughly (remember to wear gloves so you don't smell like the skunk!). Then let the pet soak for a few minutes. RINSE off. Do not leave the solution on your pet. Repeat if necessary

TICK REPELLENT

Remember that May and September are peak tick months in terms of the population of ticks in the outdoors in Western PA.

Although the products we recommend pet owners apply year around on all cats and dogs (like Frontline Plus for dogs and cats) will kill ticks eventually, sometimes it is helpful to use a repellent to keep ticks off our animals when we want to enjoy a trek into a wooded area. To accomplish this, simply take an empty spray bottle and fill it 9/10 of the way with regular Listerine mouthwash. Top off the other 10% with water. Mix and spray this mixture onto your dog's fur (and your clothing) for a quick solution to this problem. Do this each time you walk on paths or in fields with

high brush and grass. We give this simple remedy an "A" for its temporary effectiveness!

TOXIN INGESTION TREATMENT

If you have witnessed your dog eating something toxic (medicine, chocolate, onions), you may induce vomiting by giving Hydrogen peroxide.

Dose: 1-tablespoon/15 lbs. of body weight. Repeat in 15 minutes if the dog hasn't vomited.

Use: Induce vomiting within 30-60 minutes of ingestion of the toxic substance. If it has been longer than 60 minutes, it will not work.

Warning: If the pet has ingested anything caustic/ flammable - do NOT induce vomiting

Pittsburgh Poison Control: 412-681-6669