



Essential Items to Create a Cat First Aid Kit

If you suspect poisoning, call Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661, or ASPCA Poison Control 888-426-4435. Both are available 24/7.

Folklore says cats have nine lives, but let's not put that to the test, OK?

We love our fur babies and want to keep them safe, but sometimes, an unforeseen emergency can happen. Whether it be a health issue or an accident, pet parents should know to handle the situation with enough information to stabilize them and keep them safe until you can get them to a vet or hospital.

I'm certified in American Red Cross Pet First Aid, and sharing these essential items to keep in your pet's first aid kit—because being prepared can save a life.

Prevention is always best and keeping your cat indoors alleviates the likelihood of so many potential hazards. However, even our indoor fur babies can experience an incident that requires first aid.

Possible emergencies can include a variety of incidents such as heatstroke, bug bites, allergic reactions, injuries, choking, poison, cuts, even seizures to name just a few.

Your cat's first aid kit should include these essential items:

- ✓ Gauze pads & bandages
- ✓ Tweezers
- ✓ Scissors with blunt tips
- ✓ Digital thermometer (normal temp: 99.5–102.5°F)
- ✓ Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting, **ONLY** under a vet's advice)
- ✓ Antiseptic wipes or chlorhexidine
- ✓ Saline solution (for eye or wound cleaning)
- ✓ Styptic powder or cornstarch in case of bleeding
- ✓ Large towel
- ✓ Latex or nitrile gloves
- ✓ A pet-safe muzzle (in emergencies)

Hopefully, none of us will ever need to implement these steps, however, taking the proper precautions and having the basic cat first aid knowledge may help save your cat's life.

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