

How to Make a First Aid Kit for Your Bird

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Since you never know when an accident will happen, keeping a pet emergency kit at your home is a good idea. You can put a first aid kit together yourself and buy the items separately, or buy one ready-made. If you make one yourself, use a small plastic tub with a tight fitting lid to store the following items:

Important Phone Numbers

- Veterinary clinic phone number and directions to the clinic
- Emergency clinic phone number and directions
- Poison control center phone numbers

Equipment and Supplies

- Magnifying glass
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers and metal nail file
- Cornstarch (to help control bleeding from a nail)
- Penlight
- Scalpel blades and handles
- Turkey baster
- Eye dropper
- Syringes of various sizes
- Feeding tubes of various sizes (if you are trained in how to use them)
- Lubricant such as mineral oil or KY Jelly (without spermicide)
- Cotton swabs
- Clean cloths and/or paper toweling
- Disposable gloves
- Stethoscope
- Gram scale
- Needle-nose pliers or hemostats
- Wire cutters
- Net

- Home thermometer to measure temperature of bird's environment
- Heat pack or hot water bottle (to keep the bird warm during transport; wrap the pack in a towel - do not apply directly to your bird, or burns may result)

Bandaging Materials

- Square gauze of various sizes - some sterile
- Non-stick pads
- First aid tape - both paper (easily comes off of skin and feathers, or use masking tape) and adhesive types
- Bandage rolls - gauze and Vetwrap
- Wooden sticks of various sizes for splints - tongue depressors, Popsicle sticks, toothpicks
- Stockinette
- Gel foam - stops bleeding from wounds (ask your avian veterinarian)
- Band-Aids (for humans)

Nutritional Support

- Rehydrating solution such as Gatorade or Pedialyte

Medicines*

- Wound disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan
- Triple antibiotic ointment for skin

- Towels for restraint and/or to cover cage
- Pet carrier
- Heating pad or heat lamp to use at home

- Antibiotic ophthalmic ointment for eyes, e.g., Terramycin
- Eye wash solution
- Sterile saline

*Watch the expiration dates on any medication, and replace as needed.