

+ FIRST-AID KIT CHECKLIST

✓ CUTS & LACERATIONS

- Hydrogen peroxide or saline lotion to flush out the wound
- Sterile gauze and elastic adhesive tape to wrap the cleaned wound
- Pocket knife or scissors to cut the gauze and tape

✓ BUG BITES, STINGS OR ALLERGIC REACTIONS

- Benadryl® tablets to reduce swelling, giving 1 milligram per pound or the equivalent of two 25-milligram tablets for a 50-pound dog
- Tweezers for removing an attached tick followed by cleaning the bite area

✓ TRAVEL STRESS CAUSING GASTROINTESTINAL UPSET

- *Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Supplements FortiFlora* Canine Probiotic Supplement given daily starting a few days before and throughout the trip
- Metronidazole (Flagyl®) for rare, hard-to-treat diarrhea. Consult your veterinarian beforehand to get a prescription for this antibiotic

✓ EXERCISE SORENESS

- Carprofen (Rimadyl®, Novox®, etc.) for pain relief related to muscle soreness and stiffness. Check with your veterinarian beforehand to get a prescription for this nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)

✓ PORCUPINE ENCOUNTER

- Leatherman multitool or knife with pliers to slowly and cautiously remove quills. Emergency veterinary care may be needed for a dog with a lot of quills
- Belt or a slip lead to wrap around the dog's muzzle to reduce the risk of being bitten

✓ SPRAYED BY A SKUNK

- Hydrogen peroxide, baking soda and Dawn® dish detergent. Mix a cocktail consisting of 1 cup each of the peroxide and soda and 1 tablespoon of detergent that can be used with water to absorb the malodorous stench of skunk spray, a non-life-threatening but inconvenient condition. Repeated baths may be needed

✓ INGESTION OF POISONOUS SUBSTANCE

- Hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting at a dosage of 1 tablespoon per 5 pounds or 5 tablespoons for a 25-pound dog

✓ POSSIBLE BROKEN LEG

- Splint and heavy wrap, though the best course usually is to make the dog comfortable in the back seat of your vehicle for transporting to an emergency veterinary clinic

✓ MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES

- Thermometer for checking whether a dog is overheated, though common sense should prevail as it is normal for a dog to have a slightly elevated temperature after working. If a dog's temperature reaches 105 degrees, you should start cooling down the dog immediately. A normal temperature is 100 to 102.5 degrees
- Disposable sterile gloves
- Styptic pencil or powder to stop nail bleeding
- Blankets or towels should be available for wrapping an injured dog for warmth or for lying a dog on the back seat of the vehicle for transporting to an emergency veterinary clinic



Dr. Bynum suggests including the items listed above in a travel first-aid kit, though he notes you should seek immediate veterinary advice if you have concerns about an injury.