

# Advice related to Episode 1 Animal Emergency

## **SNAKEBITE**

If you see your pet bitten do not try to capture a live healthy snake as you will put yourself in danger of a bite. Apply the following first aid.

### **First Aid**

- Keep pet as calm as you can. Try to stay calm and quiet yourself as your pet will pick up on your anxiety.
- If your pet has been bitten on a limb, immobilise that limb. Use firm bandaging that reduces the movement of the entire limb but doesn't cut off the blood supply. This is not a tourniquet.
- Do not try to wash the bite site or to extract the venom by any other method.
- Go to the nearest vet clinic that is open. Confirm by phone first to avoid unnecessary driving time.

If you do not see your pet bitten but are concerned about snake bite then take your pet to a vet as soon as possible. Venom detection kits can be used if the bite has occurred in the last 24 hours.

### **Symptoms of common snake bites in Victoria**

The most common snake bites in Victoria are from Brown Snakes and Tiger Snakes. Less commonly Red-Bellied Black Snakes.

- Weakness
- Ataxia (wobbly walking)
- Difficulty breathing
- Dilated pupils
- Blood stained urine
- Sudden collapse

## **BOWEL OBSTRUCTION**

### **Symptoms**

A combination of some or all of the following symptoms may suggest your pet has consumed a foreign object and it is causing a blockage

- Vomiting several times within 24 hours
- Vomiting immediately after feeding
- Poor appetite
- Hunched appearance suggesting abdominal pain
- No faeces passed or only watery diarrhoea
- Tired and unwilling to play as usual

### **First Aid**

- Take your pet to a vet clinic immediately if they are showing signs of severe illness such as vomiting even when no food or water has been consumed or just being very quiet and unwilling to move.

### **Common foreign objects consumed**

- Corn cobs
- Cooked bones
- Fruit stones
- Food containers
- Children's and dogs' toys
- Tennis balls
- String, rope, stockings
- Socks, underwear, shoes
- Rabbits – plasterboard, skirting board

## **REPTILE OWNERSHIP**

### **Wildlife and Exotic Pet Clinic**

Lort Smith runs a Wildlife and Exotic Pet Clinic. Consultations are available by appointment to ensure that you are able to see one of our vets skilled in the care of reptiles. We are not currently equipped to treat venomous snakes.

### **Reptile ownership in Victoria**

If you are interested in acquiring a pet reptile refer to the Department of Sustainability and Environment website for licensing requirements. Look for the Private Wildlife License application. It is important to purchase your pet from a licensed breeder or distributor.

### **Reptile husbandry advice**

- Make an appointment with our Wildlife and Exotic Pet Clinic.
- Join the Victorian Herpetological Society.
- Use the following websites
- [vhs.com.au](http://vhs.com.au) (The Victorian Herpetological Society)
- [reptilepublications.com](http://reptilepublications.com)

# PREGNANT CATS

## Pregnancy facts

- Gestation is 58-65 days

## Signs of difficulty giving birth

- 1-2 hours of strong abdominal contractions without producing a kitten
- more than 4-6 hours rest between kittens without strong contractions
- black or yellow discharge from vulva
- heavy bleeding from vulva

## First aid

- Do not attempt to pull a kitten out of the mother
- Seek veterinary advice as delayed or difficult labour can result in the death of both the kittens and the queen (mother).

## Desexing

- Lort Smith advocates the desexing of all cats.
- Desexing is done as a day procedure at Lort Smith. Please call us to make a booking.