

SKIN EMERGENCIES

WOUNDS AND BLEEDING

- **Broken Toenails**- Apply styptic pencil/flour/baking soda to nail. If still bleeding, apply pressure wrap and CALL VET. Generally this is not life threatening, just disheartening that we trimmed our pct's nail too short.

- **Open Wounds**-

abrasions/ minor lacerations: clean area and keep pet from licking at it (apply bucket or E-collar/put wrap or sock on wound).

punctures/severe lacerations: need direct pressure applied (MUZZLE THE DOG FIRST). Once the wound is covered, leave it covered to protect it from contamination and to allow blood to clot. Elevate area above heart if practical, and in serious cases apply direct pressure to pressure point (inside rear and front legs and for tail injuries under the tail). Tourniquets are applied only for desperate life saving measures. Whatever limb the tourniquet is applied to is usually sacrificed--there is a definite time limit within which a limb can be saved. Once a tourniquet is applied DO NOT REMOVE IT. CALL VET.

avulsions: clean, then apply K-Y jelly to keep area moist. Wrap if possible. CALL VET.

- **Closed Wounds**- generally caused by blunt trauma and present with signs of swelling, pain, deformity, and discoloration- if possible cold compress. CALL VET.
- **Wounds on Ears**- bleed profusely- any nick of the ear looks like a flood. Clean the area, apply pressure and wrap ear above head if possible (every shake of the ear removes the clot).
- **Sliced foot pads**- clean if bleeding is profuse, then bandage. Suturing pads is almost impossible and a good padded bandage works better than trying to have your vet suture it. These take a long time to heal, but really need to heal on their own.
- **Hot spots**- shave area, clean with peroxide, then apply Bactine. Treat the underlying cause.