

MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES

FRACTURES- Muzzle the dog and immobilize the entire leg. If unable to stabilize- keep the dog quiet. Treat other emergencies that may have occurred- a broken limb is rarely a life-threatening emergency. If the fracture is open- apply moistened gauze to area. Be imaginative—splints can be made of magazines (rolled around the leg), shish kabob skewers, cardboard. Use padding to protect the leg. CALL VET.

DISLOCATIONS- Muzzle the dog. If possible immobilize joint area, if not let the dog get comfortable on its own. CALL VET.

SPRAINS AND STRAINS- cold compress the affected area several times the first day. Keep the dog quiet. After the first day switch to warm compresses. It takes of minimum of 3-5 days of restricted activity to recover.

Use of aspirin as a painkiller should be at the vet's recommendation.
A dog that feels too good is harder to keep quiet.