

I have seen a couple of snakebite posts this year already on a few of my groups, where the dog got bit by a copperhead. I had two dogs bit last year, one by a timber rattler- she died at the vet :(another by a copperhead, and he lived. I just wanted to share a few things that may help save your dogs life should you find yourself in this situation. This doesn't mean not to get your dog to a vet, you absolutely should if you can, however if you have to wait for any reason- there are things you can do immediately to help your dog survive. The following applies to any and all snakebites- the dog however will not show some of these symptoms if the snake is non venomous.

First- the symptoms of a snake bite-
The tell tale fang hole. Sometimes this is not always both fang marks. My dog only had one mark, so don't always think it would have to be two.
This area will be oozing pus and blood, will be swollen up into a knot and will be very tender.
Your dog will be laying around not doing much, the eyes will be dilated and the dog will have fast and shallow breathing.
The dog may also be vomiting, experience loss of movements in the body or have excessive slobber.

If you see the signs, give your dog an antihistamine immediately. Like liquid benadryl. **THIS CAN SAVE YOUR DOGS LIFE!** The standard dosage for a dog is 1mg per pound of body weight. So, if you have a 25 pound dog, 25 mg. The liquid version of benadryl will be easier to get down the dog as opposed to a pill.
Activated charcoal! You want to mix a little with water to form a paste and apply this to the bite. This will help draw out as much of the venom as possible.

The area needs to be cleaned and wrapped. Tightly! The dog needs to have as a little movement as possible so have enough clean cloth to be able to wrap it up as thick as a cast.
Pedialyte is something that is good to keep in your stock, for many reasons- and if you have a dog that gets bit, you should continually give the dog pedialyte- they will need fluids. IV fluids are best, but if you don't have access to the things you need, pedialyte works just as good.

Antibiotics! Give 500 mg of amoxicillin as quickly as you can.
Anti-inflammatory is also important. Turmeric is the most powerful among these. To use, bring two cups of water to a boil, add two large tablespoons of turmeric, take the water off the heat, and let this steep for 5 to ten minutes. You can stick some in the freezer to cool, administer to the dog via syringe. (they won't like the taste at all)
There is a big difference in the areas the dog gets bit. Getting bit around the head or throat, the venom is able to travel to the heart quicker.

Getting bit in the leg the venom will travel slower. You must restrict the movement of the animal as much as you can.

I hope that you never have a dog that gets bit, but if you do—you now have the tools you need to be able to save the dog.

These tips can help save a life— you will want to administer care as quickly as you can and get the dog to your local vet as soon as you can so he can determine if your dog needs an antivenom.

ya'll have a good one.