

My Dog Has Been Hit by a Car

Family Matters

Few phone calls are more frightening than:

"My dog has been hit by a car."

In those moments, it's natural to panic.

Your dog may stand up and appear to walk away.

Or they may be lying quietly by the roadside.

Either way, it's important to remember this:

Not all serious injuries are visible.

At Amity, we believe that staying calm and acting quickly gives your dog the best chance of recovery. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you know what to do in those critical first few minutes.

My Dog Looks Fine. Do They Still Need a Vet?

Yes.

Even if your dog appears to be walking normally, they may have internal injuries that aren't immediately obvious.

These can include:

- Internal bleeding.
- Lung bruising.
- A ruptured bladder.
- Broken bones.
- Spinal injuries.
- Head trauma.

Some injuries take hours to become apparent.

That's why **every dog involved in a road traffic accident should be examined by a vet as soon as possible.**

What Should I Do?

Your first priority is everyone's safety.

If possible:

- Move your dog away from traffic.
- Keep them as still as possible.
- If safe, carry them onto a firm surface such as a blanket or board.
- Avoid unnecessary movement, especially if you suspect a spinal injury.
- Contact your veterinary practice immediately so they can prepare for your arrival.

If your dog is frightened or in pain, remember that even the gentlest dog may bite instinctively.

Protect yourself while helping them.

What Shouldn't I Do?

Don't assume that because your dog is standing, they're uninjured.

Don't encourage them to walk if they don't need to.

Don't offer food or water until they've been examined, as they may require sedation or surgery.

And don't delay seeking veterinary attention simply because they seem comfortable.

What Will the Vet Do?

When you arrive, our first priority is **stabilising your dog**.

We'll assess:

- Breathing.
- Heart rate and circulation.
- Pain.
- Signs of shock.
- Bleeding.
- Consciousness.

Once your dog is stable, we may recommend:

- Pain relief.
- Intravenous fluids.
- Blood tests.
- X-rays.
- Ultrasound.
- Hospitalisation for monitoring.

Not every dog will need every test.

We'll recommend the investigations that are most appropriate based on your dog's injuries.

Why Might My Dog Stay in Hospital?

Some injuries don't become obvious immediately.

Internal bleeding, bruising to the lungs and swelling around the brain can develop over time.

Hospitalisation allows us to monitor your dog's condition closely, provide pain relief and respond quickly if anything changes.

The Good News

Many dogs involved in road traffic accidents recover remarkably well.

Modern veterinary medicine can successfully treat many fractures, internal injuries and soft tissue trauma.

The most important factor is **early assessment**.

The sooner we know what's happened, the sooner we can make the right treatment plan.

Every Second Counts

If your dog has been hit by a car, don't wait to see if they'll get better.

Let us examine them.

We'd much rather reassure you that everything is fine than miss an injury that could become life-threatening later.

Because in an emergency, it's not always the injuries you can see that matter most.

It's the ones you can't.

Because they're not just your dog.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.