

My Pet Is Bleeding – What Should I Do?

Family Matters

Seeing your pet bleed can be frightening.

Whether it's a cut paw, a torn nail or a more serious injury, it's natural to worry.

The good news is that **not all bleeding is life-threatening**.

The important thing is knowing when you can safely manage it and when your pet needs immediate veterinary attention.

At Amity, we believe that staying calm and taking simple first aid measures can make a big difference. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you know what to do in an emergency.

Stay Calm

Your pet will often take their emotional cues from you.

If you're calm, they're more likely to remain calm too.

Remember that frightened or painful animals may bite, even if they've never shown aggression before.

Protect yourself while helping your pet.

Apply Pressure

For most external wounds, the first step is simple:

Apply firm, direct pressure.

Use a clean towel, bandage, gauze or even a clean T-shirt if nothing else is available.

Hold continuous pressure over the wound for **at least 5 to 10 minutes**.

One of the biggest mistakes people make is repeatedly lifting the dressing to see if the bleeding has stopped.

Every time you do this, you disturb the blood clot that's trying to form and the bleeding may start again.

Should I Wash the Wound?

If the wound is small and the bleeding has stopped, gently flushing it with clean tap water or sterile saline can help remove dirt and debris.

Avoid using hydrogen peroxide, alcohol or strong antiseptics unless advised by your vet, as these can damage healthy tissue and delay healing.

When Is Bleeding an Emergency?

Seek immediate veterinary attention if:

- The bleeding won't stop after 10 minutes of firm pressure.
- Blood is spurting from the wound.
- The wound is deep.
- The bleeding follows a road traffic accident or major trauma.
- Your pet becomes weak, pale or collapses.
- There is blood from the mouth, nose, eyes or ears.
- You notice blood in the vomit, urine or faeces.

Remember, **internal bleeding isn't always visible**.

A pet can lose a significant amount of blood inside the body without any obvious external wound.

What About Torn Nails?

Broken nails can bleed surprisingly heavily.

Although they often look dramatic, they're rarely life-threatening.

Apply pressure if possible and arrange for your pet to be examined, as the damaged nail may need trimming, pain relief or bandaging.

What Will the Vet Do?

Our first priority is always to stop the bleeding and stabilise your pet.

Depending on the injury, treatment may include:

- Clipping and cleaning the wound.
- Suturing.
- Bandaging.
- Pain relief.
- Antibiotics where appropriate.
- Blood tests.
- Surgery for more serious injuries.

We'll also assess whether there could be injuries that aren't immediately obvious.

Every Minute Counts

Most bleeding can be controlled successfully when treated promptly.

The key is staying calm, applying firm pressure and seeking help when needed.

At Amity, we'd always rather assess a wound that turns out to be minor than have you worry at home or miss a more serious injury.

Because in an emergency, simple first aid can make all the difference.

Because they're not just your pet.

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.