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Veterinarians recommend one adult (five-grain) pill per 40 pounds of weight, given during the morning and evening feedings. Eyewash is another necessity for any first-aid kit. Ask your vet to recommend a high-quality eyewash and administer a few drops at the beginning and end of each hunting day. Also use the solution to flush out debris from the eyes as necessary. Among the other things to have in your kit are hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting and rinse open wounds, sterile gauze, a roll of elastic bandage, a needle-nose pliers or hemostat to remove porcupine quills, an antihistamine for allergies or snake bites, a vet-approved solution for cleaning ears, and a muzzle. The muzzle is to keep the dog's mouth closed in the event of a serious injury. You should also include some anti-bacterial hand wipes, not only to clean up and help sanitize a dog's wound but also to wash your hands before dealing with a cut or other emergency. According to Woodyard, one of the most frightening and least-understood problems in the field is exercise-induced collapse. When a dog overheats it may lose muscle control in the rear end and become wobbly. This condition, if severe, can be fatal if the dog isn't cooled off quickly. When overheating occurs, hunters should avoid putting the dog

in the travel kennel. Instead, it's important to cool the dog down immediately. First, give your dog water. If a pond is available, have the dog cool off in the water. If no water is handy, apply a mixture of rubbing alcohol and water to the dog's stomach and armpits as an emergency coolant. Some hunters carry a wet towel packed in a few ice cubes in a Ziploc bag. The cool, wet towel will help bring the dog's temperature down until you can get it to water. If your dog gets a cut, the wound should be thoroughly flushed with hydrogen peroxide, then coated with an antiseptic cream and bandaged. Dogs may continue hunting if the cut is minor. Deep cuts may require stitches by a vet, but still must be rinsed and bandaged in the field. Pad cuts are common among gun dogs. Dogs with pad wounds should be taken to the vet, but not until the gash has been washed and an antiseptic cream applied. Because many dogs will lick or chew an open wound, vets suggest placing a dog "boot" on the foot and wrapping it with duct or adhesive tape while transporting the dog. In the event of a snakebite, Alice says she doesn't attempt to treat the bite in the field and suggests packing the area in ice and getting the dog to the vet quickly. Ackers' book recommends

applying a loose tourniquet or constricting band two to three inches above the bite to slow the movement of venom. Rapid absorption of large amounts of venom can be fatal. The wrap should not be too tight and must be monitored because swelling is bound to occur quickly. The wound should be washed and packed with ice, then an antihistamine administered. The dog should be taken to a veterinarian immediately. One final thought: A lot of articles I've seen lately recommend converting working dogs to a high-protein food during hunting season. Most nutrition experts suggest, and Woodyard concurs, that dogs should be switched to a high-fat food prior to and during the hunting season. Hard-working dogs should be fed morning and night, and during hunting trips should be allowed to eat as much as they can. The upland bird season is just around the corner. And waterfowling isn't too far away either. So now is the time to prepare yourself, your dog and your first-aid gear for the upcoming hunts. If you do, you can help prevent a field tragedy and keep your favorite hunting partner healthy and happy all season long. Good Hunting. Babe Winkelman is a nationally-known outdoorsman who has taught people to fish and hunt for more than 25 years.

How to prepare for a child's first hunting trip

Millions of individuals across the globe are avid hunters. The passion many of those people have for hunting began on their first childhood hunting trip, and countless hunters fondly recall this milestone moment in their lives. If there's a first time for everything, parents know that kids' initial forays into any activity comes with ups and downs. Hunting is no exception to that trend, but parents can consider these measures as they prepare their youngsters to go hunting for the first time. •Emphasize the importance of safety. Safety is of the utmost importance on any hunting trip. Kids should be aware of all safety protocols pertaining to their guns and the hunting grounds. Hunter's education courses can teach kids about hunting safety, but parents can quiz youngsters in the days leading up to the trip to reinforce safety protocols. •Explain how hunting trips typically unfold. Giving kids an idea of how a hunting trip may unfold is another good



idea. Explain the timing of the trip and why it's beginning when it is. Kids without such knowledge may be less enthusiastic about early morning hunting excursions if they don't understand why they need to get out of bed early on a day off. But they might be more excited if they recognize they're more likely to see wildlife and enjoy a successful trip if they're willing to sacrifice sleeping in. •Bring some extra activities for kids to do. Screens are a no-no, as they could deter wildlife. But hunting requires patience, which is not exactly a virtue many youngsters possess. So bring some books along or encourage kids to keep a diary of their first trip, describing it

in detail so they have something to look back on as they get older. •Purchase comfortable hunting attire. Kids will likely be wearing new attire on their first trip, so parents should have them try the clothing on prior to the trip. When shopping for hunting clothing, make sure it meets all safety standards and is functional for hunters, but don't overlook comfort. Hunting involves a lot of waiting, and the trip will be more enjoyable for everyone if kids are comfortable throughout the slow periods. •Recognize the day could be emotional. A child's first hunting trip can be an emotional roller coaster, as kids may feel excited, bored, nervous, sad, and even guilty at any point during the day. Parents must allow kids to express any of these emotions during the day and emphasize that it's alright to express their emotions. A child's first hunting trip is a milestone moment. Parents can take steps leading up to the trip to ensure their children are ready for what's to come. TF229300

Good luck and safe hunting



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