Lightfoot Ragdolls

CAT FIRST AID

Remember in scouts or other youth groups, or as an adult in certain positions, first aid is something required to learn? Well, you are a pet parent and there are skills in first aid that could save your cat that are valuable enough to learn.

Do you have supplies on hand to stop bleeding? Stabilize a break? What about choking? Recognizing the signs cats are so good at hiding?

It's important to know your pet's baselines in breathing and heartrate. It would be good to create a folder for each pet and keep track of things like that. Maybe check their weight, heartrate and breathing at the beginning of every month, kind of like an in-home vet check. That will give you something to fall back on or the ability to notice changes over time. That is particularly important as your pet ages.

For heartrate, feel high on the inside inner thigh where the femoral artery is. Use your fingertips, not your thumb.

Breathing- Watch the rise and fall of a breath. One rise and one fall is one breath. Count for 30 seconds and times by 2. Labored breathing is an emergency.

Temperature. Back in the day, babies would have their temperature taken rectally. Guess what, that is what you do with a dog or cat. So fun. KY jelly helps. Use a digital thermometer and hold in place until you get the notification that it's got the temp. Adult cats should be

Gum color and capillary refill. Pink is normal. Pale or while is poor circulation or anemia. Blue or gray is oxygen emergency. Bright red is overheating or abnormal circulation. Yellow means a veterinarian evaluation is needed.

Head to toe body check- Look at your pet. Does everything look normal for what is normal for them? Check the head and mouth-eyes, ears, nose, mouth. Any swelling? Discoloration? Discharge? Redness? Check the rest of the body with hands on. Any changes? Lumps, wounds, tenderness, parasites? Check the opposing sides- legs, pads, nails, between toes. Tail and belly-swelling, soiling, unusual discharge? Be gentle! If it's painful or unsafe, stop. Report changes to your vet.

As you look at these items, this is what your vet does every single visit. They are good indicators of your pet's health.

Recognize trouble early

That's tricky with a cat. Eating changes? Litter box changes? (doesn't your vet ask those questions?) Notice breathing difficulty. Gasping? Labored? Did your cat collapse? Any sudden weakness or unresponsiveness means a vet immediately. Abdominal distress. Swelling, vomiting, dry heaving, drooling. You can usually get a cat to a vet or emergency vet yourself, if you can get them in a carrier. Dogs are usually different, you will need someone to lift a heavy dog, sit with them in the car. If your cat is restless or you are afraid they will get hurt in the carrier alone, have someone go with you to try to keep the cat calm.

Before you leave, do a quick check—make sure you and the animal are safe. Check response and breathing. Contact the vet. Provide appropriate first aid. Transport. First Aid must not delay veterinary care.

You can find a pet first aid kit here:

https://www.chewy.com/pet-evac-pak-first-dog-cat-first-aid/dp/353727?utm_id=303013933

https://a.co/d/09nC16FQ

https://a.co/d/0f7BXBNg

Make sure you know where it is. You won't be thinking super clearly in an emergency.

There's a place to take a pet first aid class! Cat and Dog First Aid Online | Red Cross
https://share.google/0ZAhE7GQZhRGDOYZH

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