

Abscesses



1 Only attempt the following procedures if you can safely handle your dog without being bitten.



2 If the abscess is soft and swollen and hasn't started to drain yet then soak a washcloth in hot water, wring it out and place it on top of swollen tissue for 5 min on and 5 min off 2-5 times a day



3 Once the abscess starts to drain the fur will get wet and smelly so use electric clippers to cut away the fur around the abscess leaving a 1 inch border all the way around the abscess



4 Wash the area with lukewarm water and a mild dish soap like Dove to get the pus out of the fur



5 If the fur is matted with pus take a wet warm washcloth and hold it on the area for 10-15 min to soften the crust then wash with soap and rinse gently



6 Seek veterinary attention as most abscesses will require antibiotics to prevent further infection.



DO NOT put the hot pack on the groin area or armpits



Hot packs should never be hotter than can be comfortably applied to your own skin.



Try to keep the affected area clean, dry, free of fur, & uncovered (if possible) to promote faster healing



To avoid fur contaminating the wound during clipping, apply a water based lubricant (KY Jelly) and then rinse after clipping



Muzzle your injured dog while handling him to prevent bites to nearby people. A strip of cloth can be made into a makeshift muzzle by tying a loose loop in the middle, sliding it over the dog's nose, tightening the loop and then tying the free ends of the material behind the dog's ears. Remove the muzzle as soon as possible so as not to restrict his breathing