— BESTFRENCHBULLDOG.COM • FREE FRIDGE CARD

The Frenchie Emergency and Poison Card

Stick this page on the fridge. When in doubt, call.



ASPCA POISON CONTROL
(888) 426-4435
24/7, 365 days a year
A consultation fee may apply

PET POISON HELPLINE
(855) 764-7661
24/7
$99 per incident, follow-ups included

My vet (name and phone) _____

24-hour hospital (name and phone) _____

Hospital address _____

Drive time _____

Integrative vet (name and phone) _____

Pet insurance (policy number and phone) _____

Call now or go now: the decoder

Red: go now · Yellow: call now · Green: call your vet today

IF YOU SEE	WHAT TO DO
Struggling to breathe, much noisier breathing than usual, blue or gray gums or tongue, fainting or collapse	**Go now: emergency vet. Keep your dog calm and cool on the way.**
Heavy panting that won't settle after a walk, play or a warm day; wobbling, vomiting or collapse	**Cool with cool tap water now, call while you cool, then go in**
Can't walk, dragging the back legs, suddenly wobbly or crying out with back or neck pain	**Go now: emergency or neurology vet, even at night. Keep your dog still.**
Ate, or might have eaten, something toxic, even if acting completely normal	**Call a poison line or your vet now, before doing anything else**
A seizure over 5 minutes, 2 or more in 24 hours or one that won't stop	**Go now. After one short seizure, call your vet now.**
An eye bulging out of, or popped out of, its socket	**Go now. Keep the eye moist and stop pawing on the way.**
Choking: pawing at the mouth, gagging, choking sounds, blue lips or tongue	**Up to 5 back blows, then go now. Don't reach into the mouth.**
Retching with nothing coming up, drooling, restless, a swelling belly	**Go now: emergency vet**
In labor and straining without delivering a puppy, or distressed	**Call your vet now and be ready to go in**
A single vomit or soft stool, but bright, eating and breathing normally	**Call your vet for advice today, sooner if it repeats or anything changes**

When in doubt, call. Our guidance, not a diagnosis. Built from AVMA first-aid tips, Merck Veterinary Manual chapters, the OFA BOAS grading scheme, Hall et al., 2023 and the ACVIM disc disease consensus (Olby et al., 2022).

Poisoning first aid: do and don't

Call first. No home vomiting for Frenchies.

DO

- ✓ Call your vet or a poison line right away
- ✓ Keep the package, or photograph the label
- ✓ Note the time and roughly how much is missing
- ✓ Go in when told, and call ahead
- ✓ Be honest about what was eaten, including cannabis

DON'T

- ✗ Wait for signs to appear
- ✗ Give hydrogen peroxide, salt, dish soap, raw egg, mustard or hot sauce
- ✗ Give human pain relievers for any reason
- ✗ Give activated charcoal unless a vet says to
- ✗ Muzzle a dog that is vomiting or struggling to breathe

Heatstroke: cool first, call while you cool

Cool tap water, never ice water. Skip ice baths.

1. **Stop and get out of the heat.** Carry your Frenchie into shade or air conditioning.
2. **Cool with water, now.** Cool tap water works best: stand or lay your dog in it, head above the water, or run it over the body, especially the belly, soaking to the skin. Keep water off the face and never leave your dog alone in water.
3. **Call while you cool, then go.** RECOVER says to cool on the spot, then pat your dog dry and head straight to a vet. Run the AC on the way. Keep cooling in the car only if you have to leave before you've finished.
4. **Don't overdo it.** RECOVER suggests stopping at about 103.5—104°F (39.7—40°C). For noisy, obstructed breathing like many Frenchies have: once the panting clearly eases or at 101.5°F (38.6°C), whichever comes first. No thermometer? About 15 minutes, then go. Dr. Judy Morgan stops at 102°F (38.9°C). Expert opinion, so check often.
5. **See the vet even if your dog perks up.** Damage to the kidneys and clotting can show up later.

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Toxins, Choking, CPR and Your Kit

Rough danger amounts for a 25-lb Frenchie

ROUGH GUIDE, CALL ANYWAY

A smaller dog reacts to less.

TOXIN	TROUBLE MAY START AROUND	SIGNS OFTEN SHOW	WHAT IT HARMS
Xylitol (birch sugar, wood sugar)	About 1.1 g: low blood sugar. About 5.7 g: liver failure risk.	10—60 minutes, or delayed 12—18 hours with gum. Liver signs at 24—48 hours.	Blood sugar, liver
Baking chocolate	About 0.5 oz: mild signs. About 1—1.3 oz: heart effects.	Usually 6—12 hours	Heart, nervous system
Dark or semisweet chocolate	About 1.4—1.5 oz: mild signs. About 2.8—3.8 oz: heart effects.	Usually 6—12 hours	Heart, nervous system
Milk chocolate	About 3.5 oz: mild signs. About 7—9 oz: heart effects.	Usually 6—12 hours	Heart, nervous system
Grapes, raisins, currants	No amount known to be safe. More than about 2.5 grapes (so 3 or more) may pose a risk.	Vomiting or diarrhea in 6—12 hours; kidney failure in 24—72 hours	Kidneys
Onion (garlic is 3—5 times stronger)	About 170—340 g of raw onion has caused signs	Anemia 3—5 days later	Red blood cells
Macadamia nuts	About 27 g, roughly 10—12 nuts	Within about 12 hours; usually passes in 12—48 hours	Muscles, nerves, body temperature
Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)	**Never give.** A single dose of about 6—7 tablets (200 mg) caused stomach signs; one tablet a day is above a daily dose that caused ulcers over 30 days.	Varies; don't wait for signs	Stomach, kidneys
Naproxen (Aleve)	**Never give.** One 220 mg tablet is more than 3 times a daily dose that made dogs sick within a week.	Varies; don't wait for signs	Stomach and gut
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	**Never give.** Signs can start from just over two 500 mg tablets.	Varies; don't wait for signs	Liver, red blood cells
Cannabis (THC) edibles	No safe amount given in our sources	1—2 hours (up to 4 on an empty stomach); lasts 1—3 days	Nervous system
Rat and mouse bait	Any amount; depends on the active ingredient	Bleeding 3—7 days later (anticoagulants); nerve signs in 1—7 days, or 4—36 hours after a large dose (bromethalin)	Blood clotting or brain

Our calculations for an 11.3 kg dog from Merck Veterinary Manual thresholds (xylitol 100 and 500 mg/kg; chocolate 20 and 40—50 mg/kg; grapes more than one per 10 lb; onion 15—30 g/kg; macadamia 2.4 g/kg, nut weight from Hemopet; ibuprofen 100—125 mg/kg once or 8—16 mg/kg daily; naproxen 5.6 mg/kg daily; acetaminophen 100 mg/kg). Xylitol timing from the FDA and Merck. **Rough guides, not safe limits. Call anyway.**

Choking basics

Signs (AVMA): trouble breathing, pawing at the mouth, choking sounds, blue lips or tongue.

- ✓ Can still breathe? Keep calm and head for the vet.
- ✓ If not, give up to 5 firm back blows over the back of the chest, beside the spine, then other techniques if those fail (RECOVER, 2026).
- ✓ Don't reach into the mouth of a conscious dog or sweep blindly with your fingers. Belly thrusts may injure small or thin dogs.
- ✓ Unconscious? Start chest compressions right away (Mandell et al., 2026).
- ✓ Protect your hands from a panicking dog, and see a vet even if the object comes out.

CPR basics

For a dog that has collapsed and isn't breathing. The AVMA's owner guidance:

- ✓ **Position.** Most dogs go on their side. The AVMA says barrel-chested dogs, such as English Bulldogs, go on their back, heels of your hands on the middle of the breastbone. Many Frenchies have a similar chest (the AVMA doesn't name them), so ask a course instructor.
- ✓ **Rate and depth.** 100—120 compressions a minute, about a third to half the width of the chest for a dog on its side; about 25% for a dog on its back.
- ✓ **Breaths.** On your own, 30 compressions, then 2 breaths. With a helper, they give about 10 breaths a minute while you keep compressing.
- ✓ **Start with compressions.** The AVMA starts with rescue breathing; RECOVER, the veterinary standard, says to start compressions right away in an unconscious dog (Mandell et al., 2026). We follow RECOVER.

Best preparation: RECOVER's CPR course for pet owners and Pet Rescuer certification.

Your Frenchie emergency kit

Keep one at home and a smaller one in the car.

To call and show

☐ Your vet, the 24-hour clinic and both poison lines ☐ Vaccine and medical records ☐ A list of medicines
☐ Your insurance details ☐ Your dog's current weight

To treat

☐ Digital thermometer and lubricant ☐ Gauze ☐ Non-stick bandages ☐ Self-adhering wrap ☐ Blunt scissors
☐ Tweezers ☐ A syringe ☐ Sterile saline ☐ Disposable gloves ☐ Towels ☐ A flashlight

To cool and carry

☐ A large bottle of water ☐ A collapsible bowl ☐ A small battery fan ☐ A spare leash and harness
☐ A towel or board for carrying a dog who can't walk

Based on the AVMA's pet first-aid kit list, with a few Frenchie tweaks of our own. The AVMA lists activated charcoal and 3% hydrogen peroxide only for use if a vet or poison control tells you to, and says not to use hydrogen peroxide on wounds. For a Frenchie, we'd leave peroxide out entirely.

More help: read the full French Bulldog Emergencies and Toxins guide. **Sources:** ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, 2026; Pet Poison Helpline, 2026; AVMA, First aid tips for pet owners, 2026; Merck Veterinary Manual first-aid and toxicology chapters, 2024—2026; FDA, Paws Off Xylitol, 2025; Hall et al., 2023, Veterinary Sciences; Mandell et al., 2026, RECOVER First Aid Guidelines, JVECC; Hanel et al., 2016, JVECC; Olby et al., 2022, JVIM; OFA, BOAS grading scheme; Morgan, 2021, Naturally Healthy Pets; Hemopet, 2020. Numbers and fees checked October 2026; they can change.

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