



Bulldog HEALTH

Insects stings

For most of us, bee and wasp stings are painful and can cause localized swelling. But for some individuals, an insect sting can also cause a fatal allergic reaction to the venom. These insects will not only sting humans, but also animals which can have the same type of reaction as humans.

Bulldogs and other short-nosed breeds are especially susceptible to allergic swelling causing obstruction of breathing passages.

Usually a single sting does not present a serious problem. The exception can be the sting on the nose, mouth or around the head. If the swelling is minor, just watch the dog to be sure your he is not having breathing or swallowing difficulties. If the swelling drastically increases within five or ten minutes, see a vet immediately. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

If your dog is stung by multiple bees or wasps then see a veterinarian immediately. At this point veterinary treatment is directed at preventing shock, maintaining fluid volume and protecting the various organ systems at risk. • Carefully remove the stinger with tweezers, if it is accessible (only bees leave stingers).

What to do if a dog is stung by a single bee or wasp:

- Remove stinger; only bees have stingers.
- Administer an antihistamine such as benedryl.
- Make a paste of baking soda and water and apply to the sting area.
- Apply an ice pack to relieve swelling and pain and alternate it on and off the sting site.
- Sit and comfort the dog until the pain has gone away. If the pain does not go away shortly then prompt veterinarian care is a necessity.

The effects of the venom from bee stings may not become apparent for several hours or days. Even if your dog escapes the allergic threat of the toxins, there may be damage to the liver, kidneys, nervous system or blood cells. It is always safest to seek veterinary attention immediately.