

Sooner or later.....

If you hunt long enough, sooner or later you will have to deal with one of these “Quill Jobs”. Hopefully, your beloved Fido will not be as belligerent as this one. If your luck has been good like mine, you may not be sure what to do in this situation. So here are a few suggestions to keep in mind.



Always have a pliers available for removing quills. I carry a broad - flat nosed pliers but some prefer a needle nose pliers. As a makeshift tool for porcupine quills, if you don't have a pliers at hand, is to use two coins between your fingers to grip the quill. It will be a big improvement over fingers alone.

You will need to remove as many quills as possible by grasping them with a pliers as close to the skin as you can. Use a quick and firm motion to pull them out. It is not necessary to cut the end of the quill off before pulling it out. Use a muzzle if needed to prevent bites. You can make a field muzzle out of gauze from your first aid kit, your boot lace, or a lead. Start under the jaw, cross the material on top of the muzzle, wrap to the bottom of the jaw and cross again, then wrap the ends behind the ears and tie them off.

Obviously, quills near the eye or an area that would allow them to enter the skull present the most danger. See your veterinarian immediately if you are unable to remove any of the quills. They will continue to work their way deeper into the dog's body if not removed. Use wound cleaner to clean the area after the quills have been removed. These quills may very well be dirty and cause an infection. So you may want to visit your vet after you get home and get some antibiotics to treat the wounds.