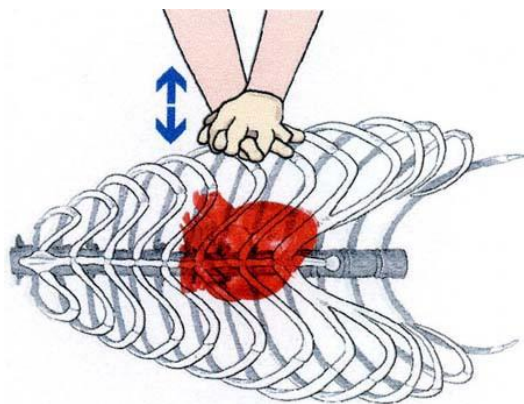


Save a Life: Learn Animal CPR

For the Pet Owner



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Pet owners should consult their veterinarian for specific details on procedures outlined here.

<http://members.aol.com/henryhbk>

**Keep this information for future
reference!**

Airway

The first step in animal CPR, after determining non-responsiveness, is to obtain an open airway. You should not continue on until this step has been achieved.

1. Carefully pull the tongue out of the animal's mouth. *WARNING: even an unresponsive dog may bite by instinct!!*

2. Make sure that the neck is reasonably straight; try to bring the head in line with the neck. *WARNING: Do not hyperextend in cases where neck trauma exists.*

3. Attempt 2 rescue breaths by closing the mouth and performing **mouth-to-nose** ventilations. If the breaths go in with no problems continue to Breathing. If not, reposition the neck and three step 3 again.



4. Visibly inspect the airway by looking into the mouth and down the throat for foreign objects occluding the airway. Unlike human CPR, rescuers may reach into the airway and remove foreign objects that are visible

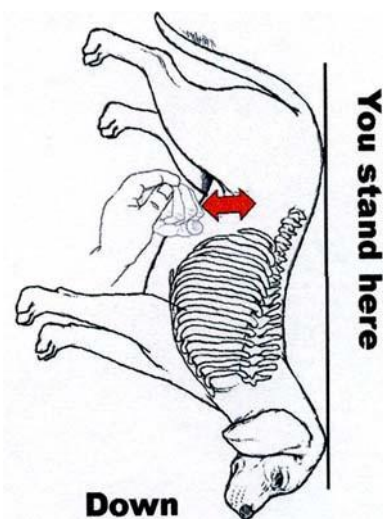
5. If you still can't breathe into the animal, proceed to the Heimlich maneuver.

Heimlich

After attempting to ventilate:

1. Turn the animal upside down with its back against your chest.

2. Hug the animal with your fist in your hand, just below the rib cage (for cats, just squeeze one hand in the same place).



3. With both arms, give 5 sharp thrusts (bear hugs) to the abdomen. Perform each thrust as if it is the one that will expel the object

4. Stop, check to see if the object is visible in the airway, if so, remove it and give 2 mouth-nose rescue breaths. If the breaths do not go in, go back to step 1. *Use gravity to help you expel the object.*

IMPORTANT: Do not proceed with CPR, even if the animal goes into cardiac arrest. You must clear the airway first.

Breathing

After achieving a patient airway, one must determine whether the animal is breathing and whether this breathing is effective:

1. Carefully pull the tongue out of the animal's mouth to open the airway. *WARNING: even an unresponsive dog may bite by instinct!*

2. Make sure that the neck is reasonably straight; try to bring the head in line with the neck.

WARNING: Do not over-straighten the neck in cases where neck trauma exists

3. Breathe at 12 breaths per minute (1 every 5 seconds). With each breath, just make the chest rise (do not over-inflate, especially on a small animal).

WARNING: If the breaths do not go in, stop and return to Airway.

Circulation

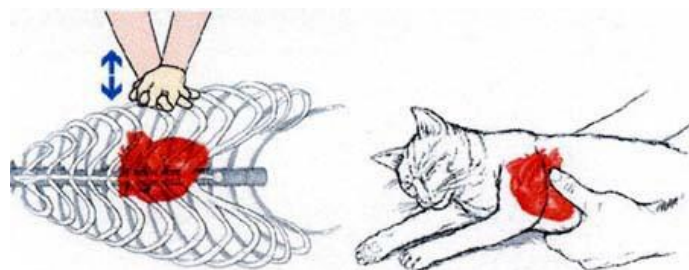
This is the final step of CPR and should only be initiated after the airway and breathing steps have been completed:

1. Make sure that there are no major (pooling/spurting blood) points of bleeding. Control as necessary by applying pressure with your hand.

2. Check for a pulse in the groin (check carefully on a conscious dog or cat).

3. Lay the animal on its right side.

4. Locate your hands where its left elbow touches the chest, approximately the middle of the rib cage (for cats, use one hand in a squeezing motion).



5. Compress the chest 15 times followed by 2 rescue breaths (3 compressions every 2 seconds)

Compress :

1/2" - small dogs

1" - medium dogs

1.5" - large dogs

6. Repeat as necessary

Emergency

During an emergency it is very important that you remain calm. Animals can sense your unease, but cannot understand what is happening and you cannot verbally tell them. Your body language is very important. Be calm, yet deliberate in your actions.

When you determine that you either have corrected the life-threatening problem or are unable to stabilize the animal, you should transport to the nearest emergency veterinary hospital.

Notify your emergency clinic that you are coming in with a dog in respiratory arrest with a foreign body airway obstruction and/or cardiac arrest.

Give them the following information via phone if possible:

- Your name
- Your estimated time of arrival
- Steps taken (CPR, removal of object, etc.)
- Breed/size
- If a foreign body is in the airway, what the suspected object is
- If a poison or medication has been eaten
- Mechanism of injury (hit by car, etc.)
- Relevant medical history (diabetes, etc.)

Write the name, phone number, and address of the 24-hour animal hospital nearest you here: