

Saving your pet with CPR

With pets increasingly being treated like a member of the family, many owners are learning emergency techniques like CPR to keep their pet alive before bringing it to a veterinarian.

If there is no breathing and no pulse, begin CPR immediately.



Areas to check for pulse

Check for breathing and pulse

Check pulse using middle and index finger below the wrist, inner thigh (femoral artery), below the ankle or where left elbow touches the chest.

Look for other warning signs

- Gums and lips will appear gray-colored.
- Pupils will be dilated and not responsive to light.

Gums

Pupils

If not breathing, give breath to animal

Cats and small dogs

Place your mouth over its nose and mouth to blow air in.

Medium-large dogs

Place your mouth over its nose to blow air in.

Heimlich maneuver

If breath won't go in, airway may be blocked. Turn dog upside down, with its back against your chest. Wrap your arms around the dog and clasp your hands together just below its rib cage (since you're holding the dog upside down, it's above the rib cage, in the abdomen). Using both arms, give five sharp thrusts to the abdomen. Then check its mouth or airway for the object. If you see it, remove it and give two more rescue breaths.

Start compressions if no pulse

Lay animal on right side and place hand over ribs where its elbow touches the chest. Begin compressions. Do not give compressions if dog has pulse.

Animal size	Compress chest	Compressions per breath of air
Cat/small dog (Under 30 lbs.)	1/2-1 inch	5
Medium-large dog (30-90 lbs.)	1-3 inches	5
Giant dog (over 90 lbs.)	1-3 inches	10

Repeat procedure

- Check pulse after 1 minute and then every few minutes.

- Continue giving CPR until the animal has a pulse and is breathing.

- Stop CPR after 20 minutes.

SOURCE: American Red Cross

For additional emergency tips, please click on the red Emergency Service button on right side of the Home page. Scroll down to "For information on what to do in common situations, click here".