

# ANIMAL CPR

**Save a life:  
Learn Animal CPR**

## A. Airway

The first step in animal CPR, after determining non-responsiveness, is to obtain a patent 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** ventilation's. If they go in with no problems, continue to **B-Breathing**.
4. Reposition the neck and try step 3 again.
5. Visibly inspect the airway by looking into the mouth and down the throat for foreign objects occluding the airway and remove foreign objects that are visible.

Proceed to the Heimlich maneuver.

## Heimlich

After attempting to ventilate

1. Turn the animal upside down, with its back against your chest.
2. With both arms, give 5 sharp thrusts (bear hugs) to the abdomen. Perform each thrust as if it is the last one that will expel the object.
3. Stop - check to see if the object is visible in the airway. If so, remove it and give 2 mouth to nose rescue breaths. If the breaths do not go in, go back to step 1.

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

## B. Breathing

1. After achieving a patent airway, one must determine whether the animal is breathing, and whether this breathing is effective.
2. Carefully pull the tongue out of the animals mouth - WARNING: even an unresponsive dog may bite by instinct.
3. 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.
4. Ventilate the animal by closing the mouth and performing mouth-to-nose ventilation's. If they do not go in with ease, go back to **A-Airway**.
5. Ventilate at 20 breaths per minute. If supplemental oxygen is available and the animal is breathing on its own, use a highflow blow by. WARNING: Do not attempt to intubate the animal without prior training and properly sized ET tubes.
6. Proceed to **C-Circulation** while continuing respiratory support as necessary.

## C. 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 points of bleeding. Control as necessary.
2. Lay the animal on its right side.
3. Locate your hands where its left elbow touches the chest. Approximately the middle of the rib-cage.
4. 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

5. Repeat as necessary

## IMPORT ANT:

**Animals do not have palpable carotid pulses. You can only obtain a femoral pulse in the inguinal crease. (Palpate carefully on a conscious dog! !)**