

Animal Hospital

T h o u s a n d O a k s



CPR FOR PETS

Just like CPR for humans, this is vital knowledge to help save your pet. Examples of situations where CPR is most useful would be:

- Drowning
- Electrocution
- Choking
- Trauma

If you see a pet choking, drowning or in sudden collapse:
Remember the ‘ABC’s’ of human CPR:

- Airway
- Breathing
- Chest compression (the cardiac portion of cardiopulmonary)

If pet is conscious he/she does not need CPR but try to evaluate oral cavity and throat especially if choking. ALWAYS be careful not to get bitten! But try to see if any toy, rawhide or food particle is stuck in throat.

If pet is unconscious evaluate throat and oral cavity thoroughly but quickly. The mouth can be opened gently and the tongue gently pulled forward. Visualize and finger sweep the back of the throat. In smaller dogs and cats especially with drowning victims treat as above and then gently hold pet with head angled downward to see if any liquid can be expelled from lungs. For all unconscious pets check for breathing and check for heartbeat and pulse. Heartbeat is most easily checked at lower part of the chest behind elbows. Pulse is most readily checked at inner upper thigh (femoral pulse.)

If there is a heartbeat or pulse but no breathing start artificial respirations. In animals this is done mouth to snout (i.e. the nostril portion of the nose) with pet’s mouth held closed.

In pets less than 50 #: one breath every three seconds

In pets greater than 50 # one breath every five seconds

(These are general guide lines; smaller animals breathe faster than larger ones.)

Continue to monitor heartbeat/pulse. If you cannot detect a heartbeat, start chest compressions.

In most cases pets are going to be placed lying on their side and chest compressions are done right behind the elbow.

Large dogs greater than 50 # will be done with the heel of your hand with straight arms, much like in human CPR. A compression a second is attempted to approximate 60 beats per minute. You can safely compress the chest 25-33% the width of the chest. Remember in a pet this size you should be giving a mouth to snout breath every 5 seconds.

In dogs less than 50 # or cats or smaller pets chest compressions can be done with your hands alone (i.e. thumb and fingers; less fingers for the smaller pets.) Again with smaller pets respiratory rates are faster so try to breathe for pet every 3 seconds.

In all cases of emergency be aware of your surroundings and remember your own safety comes first. This is particularly in cases of electrocution! Never approach any downed electrical wires even if a beloved pet is involved! This also hold true in cases of fire. Always keep all humans safe!

In all emergency situations with your pet **SEEK VETERINARY CARE IMMEDIATELY!**

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