

Heimlich Maneuver for Choking Canines










Normally a dog will not choke on its food. Even though at times it appears they inhale the food rather than chew.

Usually choking is the result of something being lodged in the dog's mouth that does not belong there, something other than food. It may be toys, bones, rawhide, or your favorite headband.

If you give a dog rawhide or bone, make sure it is too large to swallow, and as they chew it down throw it away once it get small.



Symptoms

-  Drooling
-  Pawing at Mouth
-  Collapse
-  Labored Breathing
-  Anxious Behavior
-  Gasping for air
-  Coughing




First Aid Materials





-  1 inch roll of tape
-  Pencil with eraser



First Aid

-  Open the dog's mouth to see whether a foreign object is lodged in the mouth or throat, take care not to be bit. If necessary use a small roll of first-aid tape as a wedge to keep the dog's mouth open to allow better access and protect you from the teeth.



-  If the airway is not blocked, wait for veterinary assistance, you could do more harm than good. If it is blocked use the eraser end of a pencil and try to dislodge the object.
-  If fluid is causing the choking, try wiping the fluid from the mouth with a tissue. You may need to hold the dog's head lower than the chest for 5-10 seconds to drain the fluid. Do this no more than 5 times
-  If the pet becomes unconscious.
 -  Observe for breathing by watching the chest rise and fall.





If your pet is not breathing

-  **Proceed with CPR.**
-  Get emergency care immediately.








If your pet is breathing





-  Put your arms under your dog's belly, slide them back until they catch him at the groin just in front of the hind legs.
-  Lift him into the air upside down and give him a gentle shake to try to dislodge the item, for heavier dogs do the same but let the front paws rest on the ground like a wheelbarrow. With the head down give him a good shake.








-  If during this process if he passes out from lack of oxygen, it may make it easier to reach in and grab the obstacle or use the pencil.
-  Sedation may be necessary to remove a foreign object: if your attempt at home is unsuccessful, seek immediate veterinary care. Regardless of whether the object as been removed, have your dog
-  checked by a vet as soon as possible for lacerations in the mouth and throat.



Heimlich Maneuver

-  The object has slipped so far down you cannot reach it or shake it out. This maneuver works well on people and can also work on dogs.
-  If the dog is conscious and standing
 -  Wrap your arms around his belly, just under the rib cage. (For smaller dogs just use both your hands).
 -  Give one quick forceful squeeze. Most of the time the object will pop out.



-  If the dog is unconscious
 -  Lay him on his side and feel for the last rib.
 -  Place both hands, palms down, just behind this bottom rib and press down forcefully a couple of times.
-  If none of this works rush him to the doggie hospital or veterinarian immediately.
-  If he has stopped breathing perform [CPR](#) on the way.