

CPR for Dogs



Only perform CPR if you are in a safe place and have someone to help you get to a vet.

CPR is very unlikely to be successful for a dog with severe injuries or who is otherwise very unwell.

Before you start...

Airway

Is their airway clear?

Pull their tongue forward and look down their throat to see if anything is blocking it. If there is try to get behind it and remove it.



Breathing

Are they breathing?

Feel to see if their chest moving and whether air is coming from their nostrils. If they are breathing, call your vet straight away, don't start CPR.



Circulation

Do they have a heartbeat?

Feel their chest (under their elbow), or the inside of their upper thigh. If you feel a heartbeat call your vet straight away, don't start CPR. If they have no heartbeat start CPR and ask someone to start arranging transport to the vet.



How to perform CPR

Put them on their right side

- Or on their back if they're a very flatchested breed e.g. British Bull Dog/French Bulldog
- On a firm and flat surface



Place your hand(s) over their heart

Very small dog less than 5kg



Medium to large dog



Deep-chested dog such as a Greyhound or Great Dane



Flat chested dog such as a Bulldog



Give 30 compressions

- For very small dogs, squeeze your hand. For all others, keep your arms straight and use your body weight to press the chest by a 1/3 to a 1/2
- Allow the chest to fully expand again after each compression



Give two breaths

- Extend the neck, close mouth, form seal around nose and give a breath
- Watch for rise of chest, allow it to fall again before giving second breath



Repeat

 Continue for two minutes, then check for a heartbeat



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Heartbeat -> Go to the vets immediately - call them to let them know you're coming.



No heartbeat -> Continue CPR and start travelling to a vet - call them to let them know you're coming.