

First aid for collapsed pets

Overview

- Collapse can be caused by many different problems including: heart disease, low blood sugar, pain, breathing difficulties, Addison's disease, blood loss and seizures.
- If your pet has collapsed, make sure they are safe, check them over and call your vet.

What to do if your pet has collapsed



Step one: Make sure they are safe

- Make sure your pet is in a cool, safe, quiet place.
- If necessary, use a blanket, board or towel move them.
- Keep your pet calm by reassuring them in a soft voice.

Step two: Check them over

Check your pet and call your vet practice immediately if they are:

- Collapsed and not responding
- Not breathing - also start CPR
- Struggling to breathe
- Very pale (white/blue gums)
- Very painful or unable to move

- Developing a swollen belly

If your pet seems to be coming round, calmly reassure them while they recover.

Step three: Call your vet

- Call your vet for an emergency appointment if your pet doesn't improve quickly or if they have any of the signs above.
- Even if your pet recovers quickly from their collapse, call your vet for advice afterwards. Your vet may want to check them over to understand why it happened.

Coronavirus update: In the current situation, it's important to call your vet practice to check they are open before you arrive. If they are closed, it's likely that you will be directed to another local practice.

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