

IS YOUR DOG CHOKING?

HERE'S THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER FOR DOGS

What are the symptoms that your dog is choking?

- Hard coughing
- Bulging, panicking eyes because he can't breathe
- Pawing at his mouth

Here's what to do:

- **Clear the mouth.** If your dog is conscious, pry open his jaw and look inside. Hold one hand over the top of the mouth, using your thumb and forefinger to press against the lips to get the mouth to open. Pull the bottom jaw down with your other hand and use your thumb and first finger to sweep the mouth and pull out any object.
- **Place him on his side:** If you can't see anything, put your dog on his side. His head should be lower than his rear, so put a pillow under his hindquarters.
- **Find the right spot:** Find the bottom of your dog's rib cage (the sternum). Find the space where the ribs meet in the middle, then go a few fingers lower, toward the abdomen. That's the right spot.
- **Press in and up:** If your dog is small, put one hand at the point you just found (just below the rib cage) and your other hand along your dog's back (to provide support). Press in and up. If your dog is large, use both hands to press in and up. Keep pushing until your dog expels whatever is caught in his throat.
- **Do artificial respiration if necessary:** If your dog is unconscious, put him on his side, with the head lower than the rear. Extend the head gently up and out (but not too far). Open the mouth and pull the tongue out and to one side. Do the same two compressions stated above, then check the mouth for the object. Close the dog's mouth and extend the head up. Give two breaths through the nose until you see the chest rise. Repeat the compressions, the mouth check, and the two breaths until your dog is breathing on his own again.
- **Get to a vet:** Fast!

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