


Know The Signs

The first step in saving a choking dog's life is knowing when they're in trouble. A dog that is choking might paw at their mouth and try opening their jaw wide and extending their neck in an attempt to dislodge whatever's in their throat. They might also start gasping and heaving their chest while trying to take in air.

Act Quickly

When a dog starts choking, you have only minutes to clear their airway and get them breathing again. Panic is natural, but it's important to process the situation quickly and keep a clear head while you save your dog's life. Follow these steps to perform the canine Heimlich maneuver.



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1. Carefully open the dog's mouth and look inside toward their throat to check for a possible obstruction. If you can see something, reach your hand into their mouth and remove the object with your fingers. [Pet MD](#) suggests that if you can't get it with your fingers, use a flat spoon handle to pry the object away from the roof of the mouth.
2. If you can't see an obstruction, try giving a sharp "blow" between the dog's shoulder blades. This might do the trick and dislodge the object from their throat so they can cough it the rest of the way up.



3. For small dogs, grab their back legs and carefully invert their body so their head is facing down and their tail is toward the ceiling. Next, apply firm pressure right below