

Saving Man's Best Friend with Dog CPR

How to Perform CPR on a Dog of Any Size

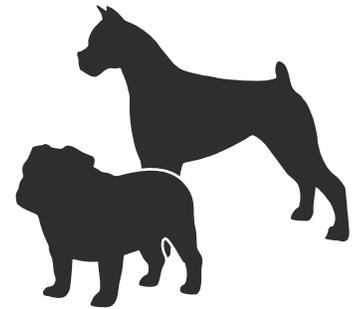
Dogs come in all shapes and sizes, so how can you be sure you're using the proper technique for your companion? To help you use the right techniques when time is of the essence, we've created this helpful guide.

Barrel- or Round-Chested Dogs

Barrel-chested dogs – also referred to as round-chested dogs – have broad, rounded rib cages. This chest shape gives them a sturdy appearance but can exacerbate other respiratory issues.

Breeds of barrel- or round-chested dogs:

- English Bulldog
- Boxer
- Bullmastiff
- Saint Bernard
- Pug

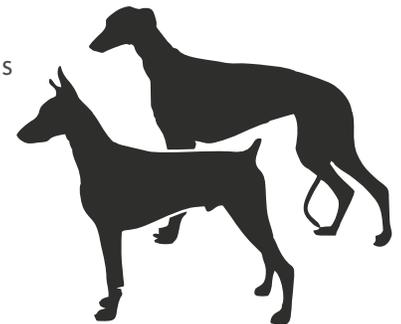


Deep-Chested Dogs

Deep-chested dogs have a long, narrow chest that extends down toward their elbows or beyond. Deep-chested dog breeds are agile and sleek, but this shape can predispose them to certain health issues like bloat.

Breeds of deep-chested dogs:

- Greyhound
- Doberman Pinscher
- German Shepherd
- Irish Wolfhound
- Weimaraner



Small-Chested Dogs

Small-chested dogs have a more compact rib cage that does not extend as far down or out compared to barrel-chested or deep-chested breeds. Unlike barrel- or round-chested dogs, small-chested dogs are always small in stature.

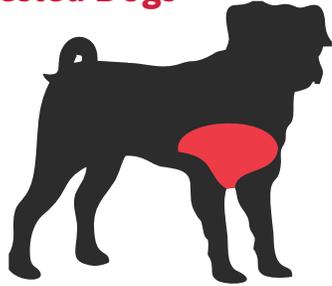
Breeds of small-chested dogs:

- Chihuahua
- Yorkshire Terrier
- Italian Greyhound
- Pomeranian
- Papillon



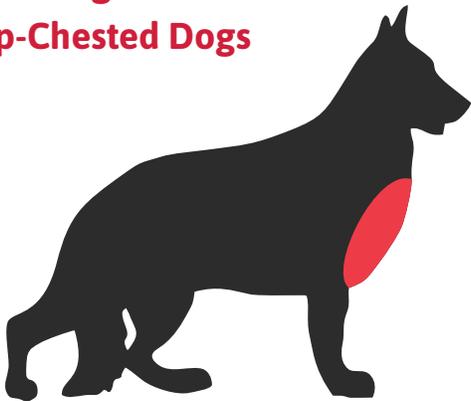
Performing Chest Compressions

Performing CPR on Barrel- or Round-Chested Dogs



- **Lay the dog on their back** on a firm, stable surface.
- **Interlock your hands** directly over their heart, which will be at the widest part of their chest.
- **Keep your arms straight**, directly above the dog, and use your body to drive the compression.
- **Compress the chest** by one-third to one-half, and allow it to return to full size after each compression.
- **Deliver 30 compressions** at the rate of 2 per second, alternating with 2 rescue breaths.
- **Repeat this pattern** of 30 compressions and 2 breaths for 2 minutes, then check for a pulse. See below for specific instructions.

Performing CPR on Deep-Chested Dogs



- **Lay the dog on their side** on a firm, stable surface.
- **Interlock your hands** directly over their heart, which will be at the widest part of their chest.
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- **Deliver 30 compressions** at the rate of 2 per second, alternating with 2 rescue breaths.
- **Repeat this pattern** of 30 compressions and 2 breaths for 2 minutes, then check for a pulse. See below for specific instructions.

Performing CPR on Small-Chested Dogs



- **Lay the dog on their side** on a firm, stable surface.
 - **Squeeze your thumb and fingers together** to compress the chest by one-third to one-half, and allow it to return to full size after each compression.
 - **Deliver 30 compressions** at the rate of 2 per second, alternating with 2 rescue breaths.
- Repeat this pattern** of 30 compressions and 2 breaths for 2 minutes, then check for a pulse. See below for specific instructions.

Giving Rescue Breaths

Though the chest compression technique varies due to the size and shape of a dog, the below technique can be applied to virtually any dog breed.

1. Extend the dog's neck so that their nose is in line with their back, firmly close their mouth, and form an airtight seal with your mouth around their nostrils.
2. Give them a breath, watch for the rise of the chest, and allow it to fall again before giving a second breath.

For big dogs, it may be necessary to close the side of their nostrils with your hand before blowing down the nose from the front.



Once you've given a 2-minute cycle of CPR (30 seconds of compressions and 2 rescue breaths repeated 4 times), check for a pulse.

No Pulse? Continue CPR while preparing to take them to the emergency vet. If you have someone with you, swap after each 2-minute cycle as CPR can be very tiring.

Feel a Pulse? Take them to the emergency vet immediately.

Reminder: CPR won't do any good if your dog has a blocked airway.

Perform the Heimlich maneuver first, if needed. Then double-check the mouth for foreign objects that could cause another blockage.

Pro Tip: Keep the rate of compressions between 100-120 per minute.

Use a song like the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive" to keep pace.

The emergency doesn't stop once the dog's heart starts.

Performing dog CPR is a life-saving act; however, your dog is not in the clear until a veterinarian says so.

While dog CPR can extend your four-legged friend's life, they will still need professional medical care if their heart stops. Once the heartbeat is revived, immediately seek vet care.

