

Choking

Similar to people, if your pet starts choking he will gag, retch, and cough to try and expel the object.

Symptoms:

- Breathing difficulty
- Anxiety
- Gums may be white or blue

Treatment:

- Open the animal's mouth and sweep from side to side to see if you can dislodge the object (B). Be careful not to get bitten or push the object further into the throat.
- Alternatively, lift the animal by the hind legs and hold them up vertically with the head facing down (A). This position may dislodge the object.

If the object does not come out by doing this, try the following:

- With the animal standing or lying down, place your arms around his waist.
- Close your fist and place it on the underside of the dog where the ribs end, just below his sternum (C).
- Compress the abdomen by pushing up with your fist five times in rapid succession (similar to the Heimlich Maneuver). Repeat two or three times in succession, sweeping the mouth to see if the object has become loose in between sets.
- If not successful, try administering a "sharp blow" with the palm of your hand between your pet's shoulder blades, then repeat the abdominal compressions (D).
- Sweep the mouth again and if the object hasn't loosened, seek immediate veterinary help. You should prepare to repeat the treatment again in the car, and be ready to administer artificial respiration if your pet stops breathing.

