

Cardiac Arrest



1 Check ABC's of life support--Airway, breathing, circulation. Can you see, feel, or hear your pet breathing? If your pet is not breathing, begin rescue breathing immediately.



2 If your pet is non-responsive and has stopped breathing, be prepared to give artificial respiration by closing your cat's mouth with one hand and gently breathe into your cat's nostrils.



3 Administer 10-20 breaths per minute for small cats. With each breath, one should see the chest slightly rise. (Avoid breathing too hard or over-inflating the lungs.)



4 Keep breathing for your cat until he/she is able to breathe on its own or until veterinary help is available.



5 Check that your cat's heart is still beating by feeling for the heart on your cat's chest and/or feeling for your cat's pulse. (The pulse is easily felt in the femoral artery located on the inside of the thigh.)



6 If no pulse or heart beat is felt, begin CPR outlined below.



7 With the cat on its side locate the heart which is easily found at the point where the elbow bends to meet the chest.



8 Begin chest compressions over the point of the heart by squeezing with one hand with the cat laying on its side.



9 Provide chest compressions as fast and consistently as one can (100-120 compressions per minute or 2 compressions per second).



10 Have assistants check pulse and administer breaths throughout.



11 Stop once a pulse is felt or signs of life are seen.

- No response from checking for responsiveness means that she is unconscious
- You can't feel the pulse in the carotid artery in the neck like you can with people
- It is useful to have extra people help perform CPR most effectively
- Following CPR, your pet will require intensive care & treatment at a veterinary hospital