



AMERIVET

VETERINARY PARTNERS

Quick Guide To Respiratory Emergencies

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- **Upper Airway Obstructions**
 - Causes
 - Laryngeal paralysis; Brachycephalic Syndrome; Neoplasia; Inflammatory Laryngitis; Nasopharyngeal Polyps; Nasopharyngeal Abscesses; Tracheal Collapse; Tracheal Stenosis; Foreign Body
 - Clinical Signs
 - Voice change, gagging, retching, stertor, stridor, unproductive cough
 - Increased inspiratory effort
 - Hyperthermia
 - Cyanosis
 - Stabilization
 - Oxygen supplementation
 - Low stress via face mask or cage
 - Reduce stress
 - Anxiolytics and sedatives, IM or IV
 - Combine butorphanol 0.2 to 0.5 mg/kg (or other opioid of choice) with either;
 - Acepromazine 0.02 to 0.04 mg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - Benzodiazepine
 - Diazepam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Midazolam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Dexmedetomidine 1 to 2 mcg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - External Cooling if hyperthermic
 - Glucocorticoids for laryngeal or tracheal inflammation
 - Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate 0.07 to 0.1 mg/kg once
- **Lower Airway Disease**
 - Causes
 - Bronchitis

- Infectious or Allergic
 - Feline Asthma
 - Clinical Signs
 - Cough
 - Shallow breathing (restrictive pattern), expiratory effort, harsh loud sounds, wheezes, open mouth breathing
 - Stabilization
 - Oxygen supplementation
 - Low stress via face mask or cage
 - Reduce Stress
 - Anxiolytics and sedatives, IM or IV
 - Combine butorphanol 0.2 to 0.5 mg/kg (or other opioid of choice) with either;
 - Acepromazine 0.02 to 0.04 mg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - Benzodiazepine
 - Diazepam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Midazolam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Dexmedetomidine 1 to 2 mcg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - Initiate Empirical Treatment
 - Bronchodilators
 - Terbutaline 0.01 mg/kg IM, IV
 - Albuterol inhaler
 - Glucocorticoids
 - Dexamethasone SP 0.1 mg/kg IV or IM
 - Contraindicated with cardiac disease
- **Parenchymal Disease**
 - Causes
 - Heart Failure; Pneumonia; Non-cardiogenic edema; ARDS; Pulmonary contusions; Pulmonary hemorrhage; Neoplasia; PTE
 - Clinical Signs
 - Fever, moist cough, nasal discharge, nasal flare, crackles, open mouth breathing
 - Heart murmur and/or arrhythmia if heart failure; tachycardia generally also
 - Cyanosis
 - Hemoptysis
 - Consider anti-coagulant rodenticides
 - Stabilization

- Oxygen supplementation
 - Low stress via face mask or cage
 - Reduce stress
 - Anxiolytics and sedatives, IM or IV
 - Combine butorphanol 0.2 to 0.5 mg/kg (or other opioid of choice) with either;
 - Acepromazine 0.02 to 0.04 mg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - Benzodiazepine
 - Diazepam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Midazolam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Dexmedetomidine 1 to 2 mcg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - If cardiac failure
 - Furosemide 2 to 4 mg/kg IM or IV
- **Pleural Space Disease**
 - Causes
 - Fluid- blood (trauma, coagulopathy, neoplasia), effusive (CHF, neoplasia, idiopathic, lung lobe torsion, hypoproteinemia), pus
 - Tissue- neoplasia, abdominal contents (diaphragmatic hernia)
 - Air- trauma, bullae
 - Clinical Signs
 - Short shallow breaths, abdominal component to breathing, absent or little thoracic wall movement, dull or absent lung sounds, cyanosis, open mouth breathing
 - Stabilization
 - Oxygen Supplementation
 - Low stress via facemask or cage
 - Reduce stress
 - Anxiolytics and sedatives, IM or IV
 - Combine butorphanol 0.2 to 0.5 mg/kg (or other opioid of choice) with either;
 - Acepromazine 0.02 to 0.04 mg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - Benzodiazepine
 - Diazepam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Midazolam 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg
 - Dexmedetomidine 1 to 2 mcg/kg (if cardiovascular stable)
 - Thoracocentesis

- Remove the fluid or air