

First Aid for a Choking Cat

Signs that your cat is choking:



An open mouth



Excessive salivation



Increased abdominal movement



High-pitched or unusual sounds



Blue gums and tongue

How to safely dislodge an object from a cat's airway:

Step 1

Open your cat's mouth and pull their tongue forward (if possible). If you see an obstruction, sweep your finger side to side to dislodge it. If you don't see an obstruction or can't remove it without pushing it further into their airway, proceed to step 2.

Step 2

Wrap your arms around your cat, with their back against your chest. Clasp your hands together. Push inward and upward on their abdomen five times, just below their ribs. If they are not compliant, hold them by the scruff of their neck with one hand and push on their abdomen with the other hand.

Step 3

If this doesn't dislodge the object, hold your cat by their hips with their head hanging down. Using the palm of your hand, tap them firmly between their shoulder blades five times.

Repeat steps 1-3 until their airway is clear. Then take them to the nearest animal hospital. Choking can cause fluid buildup in the lungs.