

Collars are for tags, not tugging!

Healthy pets are still at risk of collapsing their trachea due to tugging while having a leash attached to their collar. There are better ways to take your dog out for a safe walk. Please consider the following options:



This **Pet Harness/Vest** is more comfortable and will help you keep your pet safe. There are many fun designs to choose from as well.

If your dog pulls, we recommend the following...

A **Gentle Leader Headcollar** (not a muzzle) has a nose loop which will redirect your dog's head towards you when pulling. It's safe and your dog can eat/drink while wearing it.



An **Easy Walk Harness** will also help you train your dog. When your dog pulls, the harness gently steers your dog to the side and redirects his attention towards you.

Keep them healthy no matter the breed.

It is known that small breed dogs more often have malformed or weak cartilage rings inside the windpipe, you can still help prevent tracheal collapse in any dog, no matter the breed.

Feed your pet **healthy food** and the correct amount for its size to avoid obesity. An overweight dog is at higher risk of getting a collapsed trachea and other health problems. Also make sure your dog gets plenty of **exercise**. Exercise will strengthen your pet's muscles and bones. **Yearly wellness exams** can help your vet detect difficulty breathing in your pet. Tests can be ran the same day of the exam to find out what is causing the breathing problem.

Remember, do not attach your pet's leash to its collar! Every tug will slowly damage your pet's windpipe.



Animal Samaritans is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of animals and people through its veterinary services, animal adoption center, humane education program, and animal companion therapy program. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, or our website.

www.animalsamaritans.org



Have you heard about a Collapsed Trachea?



Veterinary Clinics

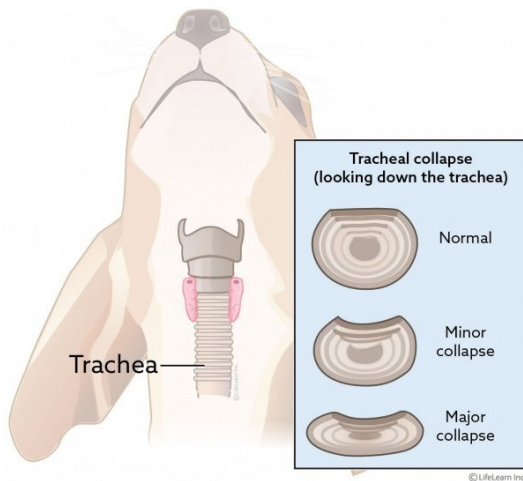
72120 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276
760.343.3477

42150 Jackson Street
Suite B106
Indio, CA 92203
760.343.3477

No-Kill Animal Shelter/Adoption Center

72307 Ramon Road
Thousand Palms, CA 92276
760.601.3918

What is a collapsed trachea?



The trachea is the large tube that carries air from the nose and throat to the small airway that goes to the lungs. Collapse of the trachea (windpipe) occurs when there is a narrowing of the tracheal cavity (lumen). This can be present at birth or develop due to obesity, environmental pollutants, respiratory infections and constantly pulling from the leash when attached to the collar.

Dynamic airway disease, sometimes known as bronchomalacia or tracheal collapse, is a potentially serious condition that tends to affect small breed dogs the most but can happen to any dog.

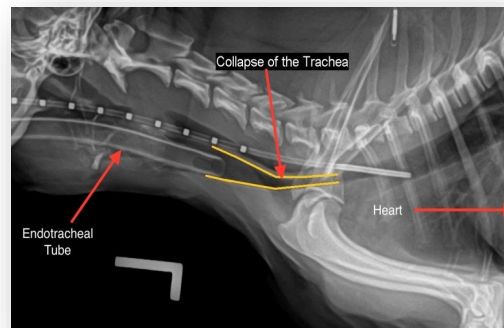
Breeds Susceptible to Tracheal Collapse

Chihuahua
Pomeranian
Shih Tzu
Lhasa Apso
Toy Poodle
Yorkshire Terrier
Maltese

How to recognize a collapsed trachea?

A tracheal collapse can be identified by a dry, harsh cough sounding like a "goose honking." You will also notice rapid breathing along with low energy and bluish gums. Gagging and vomiting might occur because of the cough. Loss of consciousness might happen in severe cases due to the lack of air.

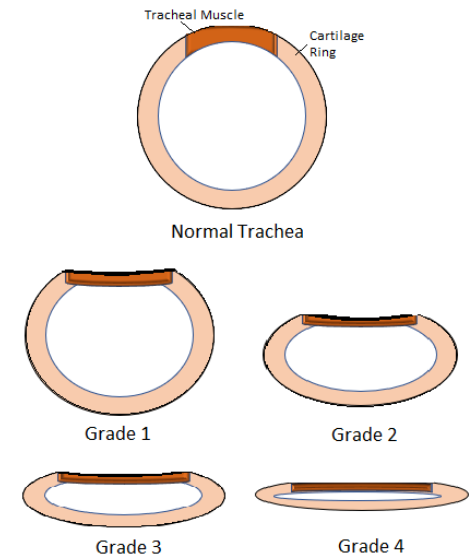
A tracheal collapse can often be seen on a regular x-ray but your vet might choose to do a fluoroscopy (moving x-ray while the dog is breathing), or an bronchoscopy test (tiny camera). A bronchoscopy is the most accurate way to diagnose a collapsing trachea.



What is the treatment?

The vet may prescribe cough suppressants, anti-inflammatory medications, antibiotics, bronchodilators, and a change of environment. Anything that can irritate and aggravate the condition must be removed from the dog's life such as dust, smoke, extra weight, and the use of a collar.

Four Grades of Tracheal Collapse



- Grade 1** 25% Cartilage is still normal.
- Grade 2** 50% Cartilage is partially flattened.
- Grade 3** 75% Cartilage is nearly completely flat.
- Grade 4** 90% Cartilage is flat.

Do not hesitate. Call your vet as soon as you notice a cough.

Remember, a cough could be a symptom of other health issues. It can indicate that something is stuck in your pet's throat, or that your pet has kennel cough, or that your pet is experiencing heart problems. Do not wait for the cough to become severe.

If the cough is due to a tracheal collapse and it is diagnosed early, treatment can help. In severe cases, surgery will be needed.

