

Collapsing Dog

The causes of and treatments for a dog who collapses.

CAUSES OF COLLAPSE

Non-infectious/Acquired disease: Heart disease or back problems.

Trauma: Blow to the head, chest, or spine; severe cuts with extensive blood loss; or a snakebite.

Toxicity: Ivermectin (in sheepdog breeds), ethylene glycol, or ethanol (alcohol).

Parasites: Heartworms, hookworms (especially puppies), or tick paralysis.

Congenital abnormality: Muscle disorders (myasthenia gravis, muscular dystrophy).

Infectious disease: Distemper, parvovirus, rabies. Note: Never handle a dog who may have rabies. If possible, without touching the dog, confine him in a room, pen, or yard and call your local animal control for assistance.

Nutritional disorder: Calcium deficiency.

Allergy: Anaphylaxis.

Note: Shock (circulatory failure), which can occur with many of the above disorders, can also cause collapse.

What to do: Make sure dog is able to breathe. Control bleeding, if necessary. Take dog to veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment.

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