

We all realize the close bond that pet owners have with their dogs. Pet owners often experience how sometimes our canine companions get into things that can be harmful to them.

On rare occasions, your dog could encounter or be exposed to opioid drugs and be in need of medical attention. The h3 Project wants to help you be prepared in advance for treating a case of suspected canine overdose. Please keep this brochure as a reference for overdose symptoms and administration of naloxone (Narcan®). Keep in mind, you should immediately follow up with a visit to a veterinarian.

What is Naloxone (Narcan®)?

Naloxone is a medication that reverses opioids, which include heroin, fentanyl, Hydrocodone/acetaminophen (Lorcet, Lortab, Norco, Vicodin), Morphine (Kadian, MS Contin, Morphabond), Oxycodone (Oxaydo, OxyContin), Oxycodone and acetaminophen (Percocet, Roxicet).

If an opioid overdose occurs, dog owners should quickly administer the antidote, Narcan®. Taking this action will potentially stabilize the dog, allowing for transport to a veterinarian for evaluation and continued care. In the case of a suspected canine overdose, immediately administer Narcan® and contact your veterinarian.

When would you need to administer Narcan® to your Canine member?

Please keep in mind that clinical signs of an opioid overdose in dogs are highly variable and related to the amount and type of opioid. The most common clinical signs of opioid overdose include:

- drowsiness
- difficulty standing
- failure to respond to commands
- a blank stare, and
- weakness, progressing to unconsciousness
- inability to breathe and ultimately death.

Most dogs start to show clinical signs within 15 minutes of exposure. If you suspect that a canine has been exposed to an overdose, it is suggested that the dog be given the reversal drug, Narcan®, as soon as possible and be then taken to a veterinarian IMMEDIATELY.

What is the naloxone (Narcan®) dosage in dogs?

The naloxone dose in dogs is quite variable. The dosage used in the University of Pennsylvania's PennVet studies was 4.0 mg per dog for both intramuscular and intranasal routes. This dose effectively reversed the opioid (fentanyl) in the dogs. The Penn Vet dogs were average sized dogs (55-88 lbs). Both the 4.0 mg Narcan® and the 2.0 mg dosages fall within the safe range for an average sized dog. If your dog was exposed to higher amounts of opioids, then it's very likely you'll need to administer repeated Narcan® treatments.

Preparation for administering (Narcan®).

A canine experiencing an opioid overdose will not behave in the way you may be used to. Dogs will likely act out of character if experiencing an overdose and may behave aggressively. For this reason, it is extremely important to take steps to protect yourself. If available, protect yourself by placing a basket muzzle on the dog immediately after administering the intranasal Narcan®. If you are able to use a muzzle, it must allow enough room for your dog to pant and cool itself. If you do not have a muzzle on hand, step away from the dog after administering the intranasal Narcan® in case the dog behaves aggressively. If the dog begins to vomit remove the muzzle (if you used one), and step back from the dog to avoid exposure to the opioid your pet has ingested.

How to give an intranasal dose in a dog.

- Hold the snout closed with one hand and place the tip of the atomizer or device inside one nostril.
- Response to Narcan® is unpredictable and the dog may wake up flailing and biting.
- To protect yourself, immediately place a basket muzzle (if you have one) on the dog or step back from them after Narcan® is administered.
- Narcan® is a short acting medication and it is very likely that you will need to administer multiple doses.



Transport to your local veterinary facility immediately.

- During transport, have an emergency dose of Narcan® available if clinical signs reappear.
- After administering Narcan®, if clinical signs have resolved—monitor for 30 minutes.
- Adverse effects of Narcan® are rare but might include excitability, vomiting, and tachycardia; However, there have been no reported notable changes in behavior, heart rate, or respiratory rate following Narcan® administration.

Post-Narcan® administration if clinical signs have not resolved.

Dog is not breathing:

- Repeat Narcan® doses every 2 minutes until the dog is breathing on its own for at least 5 minutes.

(continued on next panel)

Patient is breathing:

- Is dog conscious? If conscious—monitor for 30 minutes.
- If not conscious—repeat Narcan® dose.
- If not showing clinical signs of overdose — monitor for 30 minutes.
- Have an emergency dose of Narcan® available if clinical signs develop.

Conclusion

It is not known for certain that naloxone will successfully reverse every suspected case of opioid overdose. It can also be difficult to clinically differentiate an opioid overdose from other types of illicit drug exposures that will not respond to naloxone.



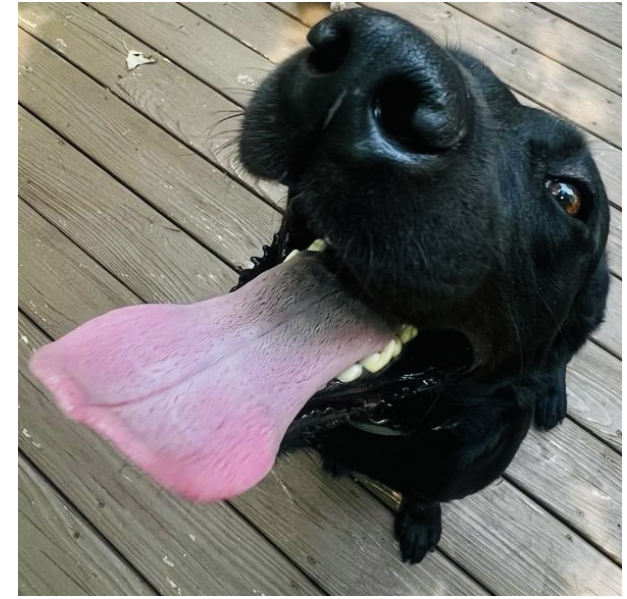
As in any emergency, please contact your treating veterinarian for follow up treatment. It is very important to have a current relationship with a veterinarian to ensure your dog is able to receive care during an emergency.



**CARRY NARCAN! SAVE A LIFE!
CANINE AND HUMAN!**

QUICK ADMINISTRATION GUIDE Intranasal Route

- Hold snout closed with one hand.
- Place tip of Narcan® device inside one nostril.
- Compress the device to deliver the Narcan®.
- Immediately place the basket muzzle on the dog if available or step back from the dog in case of aggressive behavior.
- Contact your emergency veterinarian.
- Have a second emergency dose ready if symptoms reappear.



Emergency Veterinarian:

Name: _____

Clinic Phone: _____

Emergency Phone: _____



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Narcan®: Helping Your Canine

**Adapted for
Canine Pets by:
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