

## **SHOCK**

SHOCK is an acute failure of the peripheral circulation. It is a life threatening condition. If we are not aware that our pet is in SHOCK we may do great first aid but still lose our pet. Signs of SHOCK are important to know. It is also a good idea to know what your pets vital signs are (pulse, respirations rate, skin/mucous membrane color, and body temperature) since you may have to relay this info to your vet.

### ***Signs of SHOCK***

- Weakness, collapse, unconsciousness, mental dullness
- Pale gums, pale lips, pale skin around eyes (as the body shuts down, the peripheral circulation lessens)
- Decreased body temperature (normal is 101-102.5 F)
- Increased pulse rate (normal is less than 80-120 beats/min.), pulse is also often weak or thready
- Increased respiration (normal is less than 40 breaths per minute), respirations are usually shallow also
- Pupils fixed and dilated (staring eyes)---this is a late sign of body shutdown and means death is probably imminent.

### ***Treatment of SHOCK***

Treat ABC (airway/bleeding/ circulation)—it is important to address these things in order. Airway is always first, if the dog does not have an open airway (and breathing) nothing else matters. If an open airway is established and maintained, the next priority is bleeding, and thirdly, circulation.

### **AIRWAY/BREATHING/CIRCULATION**

- OPEN/MAINTAIN AN AIRWAY (remove foreign material, blood, saliva, broken teeth from mouth and nose).MAKE SURE DOG IS BREATHING (may need to do mouth to nose breathing and/or cardiac massage)
- CONTROL BLEEDING (apply direct pressure, use pressure points if necessary, elevate area if able)
- KEEP WARM
- CALL VET AND TRANSPORT