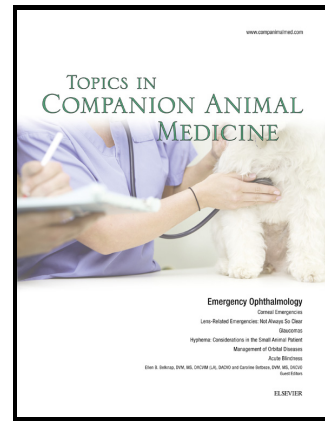


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# Aspiration Pneumonia in the Dog: A Review

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## Introduction

Aspiration pneumonia is a common diagnosis in canine patients and can occur secondary to various underlying predisposing factors and conditions [1,2,3]. Aspiration pneumonia varies in severity, and while most affected do recover, mortality rates can approach 25% [1,2]. To prevent aspiration pneumonia, and decrease mortality and morbidity in aspiration episodes, one must diagnose and treat early [1,4]. Early response, in turn, depends on understanding the various causes of aspiration events. In human medicine, extensive research and information on the topic is present. Much of the recommendations in early canine medicine are based off of successful treatment in the human counterpart. However, human and canine medicine cannot strictly be comparable. This paper will review pathophysiology, etiology, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, and prevention of aspiration pneumonia in dogs and critically comparing to human literature where applicable.

## Pathogenesis

Aspiration pneumonia in canine patients can refer to either aspiration pneumonitis, in which aspiration causes inflammation, or true aspiration pneumonia, where aspiration causes not only inflammation but also bacterial infection [5]. While the pathogenesis of the two conditions are different, pneumonitis and pneumonia in the dog are clinically difficult to differentiate from each other and are often treated the same [1,2]. Aspiration pneumonitis usually results from a large

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