

Anesthesia Cheat Sheet

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Choosing an endotracheal tube

The following guidelines are based on the weight of the animal. It is a good idea to place the largest tube you can without causing trauma to the larynx or surrounding structures. Always use a cuffed ET tube. I choose three tubes, one based on the weight of the animal, one half size bigger, and one half size smaller. I first try to intubate with the largest one and then switch to the next size if needed and so on. The cuffs should be inflated and checked for leaks prior to induction. When lubing the tube, lube the cuff, and be sure not to occlude the "eye" of the tube.

DOGS

2 kg	5.0 mm
3.5 kg	5.5 mm
4.5 kg	6 mm
6 kg	6.5 mm
8 kg	7 mm
10 kg	7.5 mm
12 kg	8 mm
14 kg	8.5 mm
16 kg	9 mm
18 kg	9.5 mm
20 kg	10 mm
25 kg	11 mm
30 kg	12 mm
40-60+ kg	14 - 16 mm

CATS

1 kg	3.0 mm
2 kg	3.5 mm
3.5 kg	4.0 mm
4+ kg	4.5 mm

Remember to base the weight guidelines on lean body weight, obese cats and dogs don't have larger tracheas. There will also be some variation by breed, brachycephalic dogs and cats tend to have narrower tracheas than a mesocephalic breed of similar weight.