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Do-not-resuscitate order (DNR)?

A do-not-resuscitate order, or DNR order, is a medical order from a pet owner. It instructs veterinary team members NOT to provide Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if a patient breathing stops or if the patient's heart stops beating.

What is a DNR?

A DNR order is created, or set up, before an emergency occurs. A DNR order allows you to choose whether you want CPR performed on your pet in an emergency. It is specific to CPR only. It does NOT have any instructions for other treatments, such as pain medicine, nutrition, or basic supportive interventions.

What is Resuscitation?

CPR is the treatment a pet receives when their blood flow or breathing stops. It may involve:

1. Simple efforts such as mouth-to-snout breathing and Chest Compressions
2. Breathing tube placement to open the airway
3. Drug Interventions and IV Catheter placements
4. Mechanical Ventilation

Why am I being asked to choose?

CPR costs starts at \$500 and the total will vary depending on your animal's needs. This and the cost of any additional care after the CPR are in addition to your current estimates.

If CPR is effective, there are often problems that need to be addressed after resuscitation. CPR does not resolve any underlying diseases.

As a pet owner it is important to understand that there are very high costs associated with CPR and post CPR care, with low CPR rates of success/survivability (less than 6%).