

CATS EMERGENCY INTUBATION CHECKLIST

Prepare for difficulty

Is a difficult airway anticipated?

- History of previous difficult intubation
- Stridor
- Large tongue/ tonsils/tumour
- Restricted jaw/neck movement
- Prominent upper teeth
- Small receding jaw
- Syndrome/Diagnosis associated with airway difficulty eg. Pierre-Robin, Hurler's

- No**
 Yes: call consultant

Discuss strategies for dealing with difficult intubation or mask ventilation (see DAS guidelines)

Are complications anticipated?

- No**
 Yes: discuss management strategy

Identify who to contact in an emergency. Do they need to be pre-warned?

- No**
 Yes

Prepare Equipment

Apply monitoring

- ECG
 Blood pressure (1 min auto)
 SpO₂ probe (audio)
 Capnography

Check Equipment (BOX **A** + **B**)

- Mask
 Guedel airway(s)
 T-piece & oxygen supply
 Suction
 ET tubes (+/- sizes)
 Laryngoscope x2
 Equipment for alternative plans—*bougie, LMA, alt. blade*
 Tapes
 Bag Valve Mask

Prepare Drugs (CHART **C**)

- Induction agent/analgesic
 Muscle relaxant
 Drugs for circulatory support (fluid bolus, vasoactive drugs, atropine)
 Maintenance sedation

Prepare Patient

- Confirm IV access is patent**

- Is pre-oxygenation optimal?**

- Optimise patient's position (consider pillow)**

- Does an NG tube need to be inserted or aspirated?**

- Could the patient's condition be optimised further before intubation?**

Prepare Team

Intubation should be a two-doctor/ ANP task. Are two appropriately experienced people present?

- No, find a second intubator**
 Yes

Are any additional staff required?

Allocate Roles

- Intubator
 Intubator's Assistant
 Monitoring/Drugs

- Ready to proceed?**

Disclaimer - The information provided on this checklist is intended as guidance only and is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to preparation for intubation. Conduct in individual cases should be determined by the facts pertaining to that case and should be confirmed by a specific risk assessment in each situation.



BOX A

ETT size and length formulas

Uncuffed ETT size	Age/4 + 4
Cuffed ETT size	Age/4 + 3.5

- use no smaller than 3.0 cuffed ETT

Oral Length (cm)	Age/2 + 12
Nasal Length (cm)	Age/2 + 15

BOX B

Age	UETT size	CETT size	Oral Length (cm)	LMA size
0-3 months	3.5	3.0	9.0-10.0	1.0
3-6 months	4.0	3.5	10.0-11.0	1.0-1.5
6-12 months	4.0-4.5	3.5 – 4.0	12.0	1.5
1 year	4.0-4.5	3.5 – 4.0	12.5	2.0
2 years	4.5-5.0	4.0 – 4.5	13.0	2.0
3 years	4.5-5.0	4.0 – 4.5	13.5	2.0
4 years	5.0-5.5	4.5 – 5.0	14.0	2.0-2.5
5 years	5.0-5.5	4.5 – 5.0	14.5	2.5
6 years	6.0	5.0 – 5.5	15.0	2.5
7 years	6.0	5.0 – 5.5	15.5	2.5-3.0
8 years	6.5	6.0	16.0	3.0
9 years	6.5	6.0	16.5	3.0
10 years	7.0	6.5	17.0	3.0-4.0
12 years	7.5	7.0	18.0	4.0

CHART C

