Pharyngeal size and body weight do not always correlate. The body weights given below are intended to be guidelines only. Other factors such as head size, breed and pre-existing pathology also have an effect.

Ensure that the patient is at a surgical depth of anaesthesia, the mouth has been checked and any foreign material removed and an appropriate dose of topical anaesthetic agent has been applied to the larynx. Lubricate all surfaces of the v-gel using the Vetlube and gently advance the v-gel into the pharynx.

An appropriately sized v-gel will feel snug but not tight, the shoulders of the v-gel should gently sit adjacent to the pharyngeal arch, a respiratory pattern should be present on the capnograph and the patient should be able to be ventilated through the v-gel.

If it is difficult to advance the v-gel into position, the next smallest size should be used. If the v-gel feels loose in the pharynx, or there is gas leakage during patient ventilation, the next largest size should be used.