

Bloat

Bloat is one of the quickest killers of all dog emergencies with a mortality rate of 20%-45% of dogs who caught in the early stages. Knowing the signs and symptoms of bloat can help us keep our beloved dogs alive. We refer to Bloat as GDV (gastric dilation-volvulus).

Typically a dog has a normal stomach... they eat, digest and then waste. It is VERY important to know what a “normal” dog is before “abnormal” signs arise. All dog owners should know how to take vitals on their dog, know how to and at least 2 times a month perform a tip to tip evaluation of their dog and have a first aid kit which contains the items necessary to at minimum accurately triage their own dog.

Beginning with a “healthy dog”. While performing a tip to tip evaluation you should also include listening to the dogs abdomen (between the last rib and the hip). It is helpful to have a stethoscope, but not a requirement. You should hear NORMAL gurgling sounds as the food is digesting and moving through the intestines.

PLEASE KNOW... If you even suspect your dog is bloating, become involved IMMEDIATELY... Bloat can go from PRE-GDV to Stage 3 in less than 30 minutes and is exceptionally painful for your dog.

PRE-GDV:

| What causes | What's happening with the dog | What you can and should do | Likely outcome |
|---|--|---|--|
| Stress Excitement Vigorous Exercise Large Meals Large amounts of Water Swallowing Air Familial link | Gas is accumulating in the stomach of the dog and is not emptying as it should The dog is uncomfortable | Give the dog an antacid Keep the dog COOL and QUIET Do NOT leave your dog alone | Often you will get your dog to burp – a great sign as this releases the air from the stomach Often you can keep your dog from going into Stage 1 GDV if you are able to get your dog to release the gas early enough. |

Stage 1 GDV

| What causes | What's happening with the dog | What you can and should do | Likely outcome |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Gas build up has not been released. | The stomach begins to dilate... enlarge The dog becomes anxious and restless. The dog will begin pacing and MAY attempt to vomit, generally will produce stiff white foam rather | Quickly go through the vitals of your dog, including listening to the stomach and intestines. Call your vet and tell your vet that you suspect your dog is bloating. | Generally if you respond quick enough, your vet can release the gas from the stomach and your dog will survive. You will need to speak with your vet about having a gastropexie done as the recurrence |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | <p>than vomit.</p> <p>The dog will probably be salivating.</p> <p>The dog MAY have a swollen abdomen.</p> | <p>Go to the vets office. Do NOT accept “we have a later appointment” - this is a medical emergency and there is NOT time to wait for an appointment. If your vet is not available find another vet.</p> | <p>rate of GDV is greater than 80%</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

Stage 2 GDV

| What causes | What's happening with the dog | What you can and should do | Likely outcome |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>The stomach twists. Blood Supply to part of the stomach is cut off. Stomach tissue is damaged. D portal vein, Vena Cava and Splenic Vein become compressed and twisted. Spleen becomes engorged. Shock begins to develop.</p> | <p>Dog tends to stand with the legs apart and the head hanging down.</p> <p>Abdomen is swollen and has a hollow sound to it.</p> <p>Gums are dark red.</p> <p>Heart Rate is 80-100 bpm</p> <p>Temperature is raised generally greater than 104.</p> | <p>Get someone to tell your vet you are on the way OR call your vet while in route.</p> <p>Do NOT ask permission to come in, tell the vet you are coming in.</p> <p>Place the dog in the vehicle and keep the dog as COLD as possible.</p> <p>This is the ONLY chance you have to save your dogs life.</p> | <p>Vet will need to remove the stomach pressure, start an IV drip and perform surgery to untwist the stomach.</p> <p>Your vet needs to perform a gastropexie at the same time.</p> <p>NOTE!!! There are NOT great odds at this point of saving your dog, however it can be done if you remember this is a LIFE and DEATH emergency and you remain calm and keep the dog cold.</p> |

Stage 3 GDV

| What causes | What's happening with the dog | What you can and should do | Likely outcome |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Spleen and stomach tissue die.</p> <p>Shock is severe.</p> <p>Heart Failure Develops.</p> <p>Shock become</p> | <p>Dog is unable to stand.</p> <p>Abdomen is very swollen.</p> <p>Breathing is shallow.</p> <p>Gums become white or</p> | <p>Load your dog in the vehicle and let your vet know you are coming through another person or while driving to the vet's office.</p> <p>Make your dog</p> | <p>Your vet may be able to perform surgery as above, but will also need to remove part of the stomach and the spleen. The prognosis is very poor and it's often impossible to save the</p> |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| irreversible. Death is immanent. | blue. Heart Rate is over 100bpm. Temperature is below 98. | comfortable. | dog's life at this time. |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------|