

BLOAT

A Quick Reference Guide

My Vet's Emergency Telephone Number(s):

BLOAT -- Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV) is a medical condition in which the stomach becomes overstretched and can sometimes twist (**Gastric Torsion**) by excessive gas content. It often occurs suddenly and **can be fatal**. Survival depends on **recognizing the symptoms** and **getting prompt medical attention**

SYMPTOMS MAY INCLUDE:

Extreme Restlessness, Excessive Salivation, Non-Productive Vomiting & an Enlarged & Painful Abdomen

BLOAT MAY BE CAUSED BY:

Stress	Excitement	Swallowed Air	Long Drink	Familial Tendency
Vigorous Exercise Before/After Meals		Large Meals/Feeding Once A Day		Diet of Dry Food

THE CHART BELOW MAY HELP IN CASES OF BLOAT

The key to surviving bloat is to get the dog to the vet as soon as possible. **DO NOT** try to treat this at home

	WHAT IS HAPPENING	WHAT THE DOG DOES	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO	VET TREATMENT
PHASE I	Air, fluid, and/or foam accumulates in the stomach and the stomach does not empty completely	Seems slightly uncomfortable; Loss of appetite but may eat grass; May try to vomit	Do not leave the dog alone; Keep the dog quiet; Give antacid (Gas X or Pepsid AC) if vet agrees	During this period the dog may recover without going into bloat If there is doubt, call your vet
PHASE II	Stomach starts to fill with gas (Gastric Dilation)	Anxious; Restless; Pacing; Salivating; Will not eat anything; Tries to vomit and may bring up white foam; Abdomen may be swollen	Call your vet, tell him what you suspect and why Take the dog to the vet without further delay	During this period the dog may recover when your vet releases the pressure with a stomach tube
PHASE III	Stomach twists (Gastric Torsion) Blood supply to part of the stomach tissue is damaged; Portal vein, vena cava and splenic vein become compressed and twisted; Spleen becomes engorged; Shock begins to develop	Very restless; Whining & panting; Excessive salivation; Tries to vomit every 2-3 minutes; Stands with legs apart & head down; Abdomen swollen & sounds hollow if tapped; Gums dark red; Hart rate 80-100 beats/min; Temp as high as 104	Get someone to tell your vet that you are on your way and why Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible	During this period the vet will need to relieve the stomach pressure Starts intravenous fluids and drugs to combat shock Performs immediate surgery to untwist the stomach
PHASE IV	Spleen & stomach tissue become necrotic Shock becomes very severe which could result in Heart Failure and Death	Unable to stand or stands shakily with legs apart; Abdomen very swollen; Breathing shallow; Gums white or blue; Heart rate over 100 beats/min; Pulse very weak; Temp drops to 98	Death is imminent Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible	As well as the treatment above, the vet will remove part of the stomach and spleen and continue to give drugs to counteract shock It may not be possible to save the dog's life