

THREATENING

GDV - Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus : (Bloat and Torsion) : (Bloating and Twisting of the Stomach)

What is bloat/torsion?

If the stomach twists on itself, then the entrance and exit to the stomach will be blocked, causing it to dilate, as gas and fluid will collect. This becomes extremely uncomfortable for a dog, and the combination of twisting and stretching of the stomach cuts off the blood supply, leading quickly to a **LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY**.

(Sometimes the stomach merely fills with air but does not twist, which is referred to as bloat. Bloat is less serious but will still need veterinary attention. It is not obvious from the outside if the stomach has twisted or not, so both should be treated as an emergency.)

What causes bloat/torsion?

The exact cause of a GDV is not fully understood. It occurs mostly when dogs have exercised within 2 hours of drinking a lot or eating a main meal. (It is thought that the extra weight in the stomach produces a pendulum effect, causing the stomach to twist.)

Large and giant breed dogs, especially those with **deep, narrow chests** (such as Great Danes, Flatcoated Retrievers, Setters, **GSDs**, and Afghan Hounds etc) are at higher risk than others. Bloat and torsion can occur in a dog of any age.

SIGNS OF A TORSION

The big warning sign is if a dog unsuccessfully attempts to vomit (retching). If your dog does this with or without any other signs it should always be treated as an emergency.

Swelling of your dog's stomach is another strong indicator of a torsion. This may not be as obvious as it sounds, since most of the stomach sits under the ribs in affected breeds. Therefore knowing the normal shape of your dog is very important.

Your dog's gums should be salmon pink. Other colours such as very pale or purplish may be seen with torsions. Whatever the cause, they indicate shock, a problem that should be reported to your vet.

Anxiety, panting, pacing, inability to settle and increased salivation all indicate pain, which are also often seen with a torsion.



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be suffering a torsion, seek veterinary attention

The incidence of torsions has been reported at around 6% in affected breeds. Thankfully it is a relatively rare occurrence, but because it is so serious all owners should be aware of it. Increased awareness of owners in recent years has resulted in quicker treatment and the dog living rather than dying.

VET CONTACT NUMBER: DAY:õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ

OUT OF HOURS:õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ