

Bloat Gastric Dilation an acute condition where the stomach swells. The shape of a dog's stomach is elongated so it makes it more prone to bloat.

Once distended, the stomach could twist.

Something happens to the normal digestive process— either food, fluid, or gases expand in the stomach. The stomach traps the content and with no way to expel, the stomach continues to expand. Eventually the stomach twists, cutting off the blood supply to other body organs causing organ to fail and cells to die.

The dog goes into shock and cardiac arrest. Death occurs if not treated rapidly by a Veterinarian. Surgery is needed within hours of symptoms.

This condition affects mostly large breed dogs with deep chests. Deep chested is long chest with a short width.

Breeds Most At-Risk for Bloat:

Afghan, Akita, Alaskan Malamute, Bernese Mountain Dog, Bloodhound, Boxer Doberman, Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Irish Setter, Irish Wolfhound, King Shepherd, Kuvasz, Labrador Retriever, Newfoundland, Rottweiler, Standard Poodle and the list goes on.

What to Watch For:

Know what your dog's stomach normally looks and feels like. So if your dog does become distended you will recognize the symptom quickly. Some signs of bloat are: retching without anything coming up, pacing, panting, acting uncomfortably, can't settle, painful abdomen, thick white saliva, lethargic, very hard distended belly, head down, tail tucked, depressed, difficulty breathing and collapsing.

Prevention:

- Feed smaller meals over the day
- Elevate food bowl
- Never give water at meal time
- Never exercise after meals
- Make sure dog isn't gulping down water and food
- Prevent stressful situations

Also if your dog often has hiccups, that is usually an indicator the dog is eating or drinking too fast, or drinking very cold water. Feed smaller portions more frequently and keep water at room temperature.

If you add water to your dog's kibble please check that it is a meat based kibble and not a grain. Grain mixed with water ferments and causes gas.