

# **BLOAT SYMPTOMS AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

## **Phase 1 Symptoms:**

1. Pacing, restlessness, panting and salivating.
2. Unproductive attempts to vomit (every 10-20 minutes).
3. Abdomen exhibits fullness and is beginning to enlarge.

**Call one of these clinics equipped for emergency surgery. Be prepared to bring your dog to the clinic immediately.**

### **These emergency clinics are open 24 hours a day.**

Upstate Veterinary Specialties – Latham, NY – 518.783.3198

Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center – Bedford Hills, NY – 914.241.7700

Flannery Animal Hospital – New Windsor, NY – 845.565.7387

Guardian Veterinary Specialists – Brewster, NY – 914.704.3400

### **These clinics are only open after business hours, on weekends or holidays.**

Animal Emergency Clinic – Poughkeepsie, NY – 845.471.8242

Animal Emergency Clinic – Kingston, NY – 845.336.0714

**During business hours, you can also call Dr. Tina at Integrative Animal Care – 518.329.5213 – for advice.** If you reach voicemail, leave an emergency message with the phone number you can be reached at. Be prepared to bring your dog to the clinic immediately.

## **Phase 2 Symptoms:**

1. Very restless, whining, panting continuously, heavy salivating.
2. Unproductive attempts to vomit (every 2-3 minutes).
3. Dark red gums.
4. High heart rate.
5. Abdomen is enlarged and tight, emits hollow sound when thumped.

Locate the last rib on the dog's left side. The stomach is located on the left side of the dog's abdomen under the last few ribs. It will be very distended past the ribs.

Remove the packaging and cap from a needle. Firmly grasp the blunt end of the needle and with a sharp motion, stab the needle into the dog's stomach on the left side behind the last rib (see figure). Gas will be expelled immediately through the needle. Do not be concerned about hurting the dog because he is already in pain from the bloat and torsion and will not notice the pain from the needle.

## **Phase 3 Symptoms:**

1. Gums are white or blue
2. Dog unable to stand or has a spread-legged, shaky stance.
3. Abdomen is very enlarged.
4. Extremely high heart rate.

Death is imminent! Insert needle into distended stomach as described above. Transport dog to the clinic immediately (even while applying first aid if possible).

### **Integrative Animal Care**

3051 State Route 82

Ancramdale, NY 12503

518.329.5213

## Recommendations to help avoid Canine Bloat

Deep-chested, large dogs are most at risk.

Veterinarians continue to study canine bloat and still have many unanswered questions. The following recommendations will help prevent bloat.

Feed dogs two or three times daily, rather than once a day, and at times when someone can observe them after they have eaten.

Avoid vigorous exercise, excitement and stress one hour before and two hours after feeding. Walking is okay because it helps stimulate normal gastrointestinal function.

Feed dogs individually and in a quiet location.

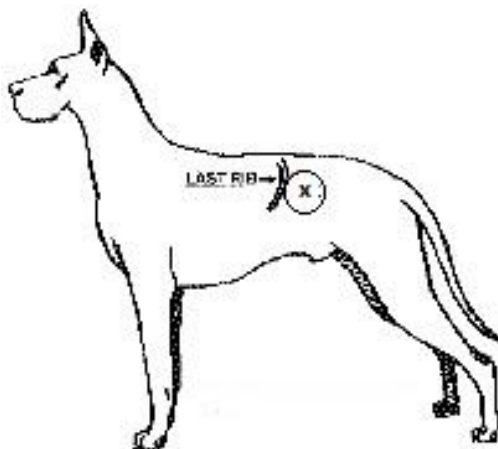
Make diet changes gradually over a 3-5 day period.

Ensure water is always available but limit the amount immediately after feeding.

Watch for any actions or behavior that may signal abdominal discomfort (abdominal fullness, pacing, salivating, whining, getting up and lying down, stretching, looking at or licking abdomen, anxiety and unsuccessful attempts to vomit).

Bloat is much more common in dogs fed dry kibble. Wetting the kibble before feeding does not help a lot. It is less common in dogs fed raw diets.

**Review the instructions on the reverse side of this page before symptoms appear so that you are ready to act immediately. Keep needles in various places so you always have one handy, e.g., at home, in the car, in your purse, with poop bags, at your pet sitter's, etc.**



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