

Quick Reference Guide For GDV

BLOAT

Vet's Emergency Telephone Number...

	What Is Happening	What The Dog Does	What You Should Do	Treatment
Stress >>> Excitement >>> Vigorous Exercise >>> Large Meals >>> Long Drink >>> Swallowed Air >>> Familial Tendency >>>	Stomach function is normal. Gas accumulates in the stomach but the stomach does not empty as it should.	Dog behaves as usual. Seems slightly uncomfortable.	Keep the dog quiet; Do not leave the dog alone; Give Antacid if your vet agrees. Be aware of Phase I symptoms.	During this period the dog may recover without going on to develop Gastric Volvulus.
PHASE I GDV	Stomach starts to dilate. (Gastric Dilatation) Stomach twists. (Gastric Volvulus)	Anxious, restless, pacing; Trying to vomit-may bring up stiff white foam but no food; Salivating; 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 if your vet releases the pressure with a stomach tube.
PHASE II GDV	Blood supply to part of stomach is cut off. 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; Salivating copiously; Tries to vomit every 2-3 min; Stands with legs apart & head hanging down; Abdomen swollen & sounds hollow if tapped; Gums dark red; Heart rate 80-100 beats/min; Temperature raised (104°f)	Get someone to tell your vet 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, start an intravenous drip and perform surgery to untwist the stomach.
PHASE III GDV	Spleen and stomach tissue become Necrotic. Shock now very severe. Heart failure develops. Shock now irreversible. Death	Unable to stand or stands shakily with legs apart; Abdomen very swollen; Breathing shallow; Gums white or blue; Heart rate over 100 beats/minute; Pulse very weak; Temperature drops (98°f)	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 doing everything above, the vet will need to remove part of the stomach and the spleen. He will also need to use powerful drugs to counteract shock. It may not be possible to save the dog's life.