



BLOAT

The second leading killer of dogs!

Bloat, if left untreated, has a 100% fatality rate!

🐾 What is Canine Bloat?

Bloat occurs when a dog's stomach fills with air, fluid and/or food. An enlarged stomach puts pressure on the other organs, which can cause difficulty breathing. Bloat may eventually decrease blood supply to a dog's vital organs.

🐾 Symptoms of Bloat:

- Unsuccessful attempts to belch or vomit
- Weakness or collapsing
- Excessive salivation
- Cold body temperature
- Rapid breathing/panting/heart rate
- Pale gums

🐾 What Causes Bloat?

Unfortunately, the exact cause of Bloat is currently unknown. There are a few known risk factors though:

- Rapid eating
- Eating only one large meal daily
- Dry food-only diet
- Over eating/drinking
- Heavy exercise immediately after eating
- Stress/trauma/abnormal gastric motility or hormone secretion

🐾 How is Bloat Treated?

Depending on your dog's condition, a veterinarian may take an X-ray of the abdomen to assess the stomach's position. Your vet may try to decompress the stomach and relieve gas and fluid pressure by inserting a tube down the esophagus.

🐾 Ways to Prevent Bloat:

- Feed your dog several small meals, throughout the day, rather than one or two larger meals
- If appropriate, include canned food in your dog's diet (Check with your vet first)
- Maintain your dog's appropriate weight
- Avoid feeding your dog from a raised bowl (unless told to do so by your vet)
- Let your dog rest, at least 30 minutes after eating, best to wait 90 minutes before excessive play

IMPORTANT: If you think a dog has Bloat, DO NOT HESITATE! RUSH to the closest veterinarian!

Information in this article was gathered from The ASPCA, a non-profit organization, to help protect your pup!