

What promotes bloat?

The Condition: gastric dilation and volvulus.

--Gas accumulation is defined as dilation or bloat. The occurrence can cause rotation of or twisting on the axis of the stomach, which is referred to as volvulus. Volvulus being much more immediately life threatening.

--When the stomach expands it can put pressure on some large veins and arteries, slowing the flow of blood throughout. If the blood supply to the stomach is cut-off you can get necrotic tissues and toxins increase.

The Symptoms:

Unproductive vomiting

Apparent distress

Distended abdomen—which you may or may not see

Restlessness

Excessive salivation/drooling

Panting

Dog's stomach feels taut to the touch—as a drum

Pacing

Repeated turning to look at its flank/abdomen

You just feel like something is not right with your dog

From the Purdue University's Research:

Some things that seem to indicate GDV risk are adverse to old time beliefs. Doing everything to avert GDV, or doing that which would seemingly bring on GDV doesn't always determine the outcome.

Facts:

Predisposed are large, deep-chested dogs. A profile view - dogs who are especially longer from spine to sternum, compared to the width of the chest cavity from a frontal view.

"Another key risk factor is having a close relative that has experienced GDV. Accordingly to one of the Purdue studies that focused on non-dietary risk factors for GDV, there is a 63 percent increase in risk associated with having a first degree relative (sibling, parent or offspring) who experienced bloat."

Stress:

Risk increases by 257 percent in fearful dogs versus non-fearful dogs.

Food:

300 dogs studied, 106 bloated

--Dry dog food with one of the first four ingredients being a fat source - 170% more likely to bloat.

--Dry dog food containing citric acid AND moistening before feeding - 320% increase in risk

--Rendered meat meal with one of the first four ingredients being bone - lowered risk by 53%

--Table food in the diet (large and giant breeds) 59% decrease in risk

--Canned dog food- 28% decrease in risk

"The history.

Additional Purdue:

You should not breed a dog that has first-degree relative who has bloated. They believe the reduction of bloat instance for offspring could be up to 60%

Other Article Aspects:

A holistic care vet from Bethesda, MD stated that she had not seen a case of bloat in five years, and that at least 75% of her clients feed either home-cooked or raw.

Gastropexy surgery--5% will have recurrence

Repositioning stomach--80% repeat occurrence

Phazyme:

Some people have used Phazyme at signs of boat. [Phazyme is a brand-name of simethicone, an OTC anti-gas remedy for people, manufactured by GlaxoSmith-Kline]. GlaxoSmith-Kline says that Phazyme is a "defoaming agent that reduces the surface tension of gas bubbles, allowing the gas to be eliminated more easily by the body."

Some vets disagree with giving anything orally because, if vomiting occurs there's a possibility for aspiration.

Rescue Remedy:

This is flower essence, and can be sprayed in the mouth. It is absorbed in the mucus membrane, and it *may* help to reduce shock and trauma. It's NOT a remedy, but it may help to defuse the situation--you also may want to take it yourself.

Digestive Enzymes and Probiotics:

Given as regular supplements help to reduce gas and help maintain a good flora in the gut, respectively--in turn may decrease risk of bloat.

Raised Bowls:

Raising bowls increases risk. A study done on raised bowls--no other factors accounted for:

relationship between feeding a home-prepared diet, either cooked or raw, hasn't been formally researched."

Limiting exercise and water prior to and after eating were not factors when they took into account other factors, such as family

68% of large breeds bloated

66% of giant breeds bloated

See Non-dietary risk factors for gastric dilation-volvulus in large - and giant breed dogs, article published November 15, 2001 in Volume 217, No. 10 of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. This study included specific breeds of over 1,600 dogs, over the course of a number of years, obtaining info on medical histories, genetic background, personality and diet.

