

Bloat/Torsion-Gastric Dilatation Vovulus

Bloat or GDV is a devastating killer of dogs and can occur in the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. Mostly, GDV occurs in deep chested breeds, such as the GSMD and requires immediate veterinary care. Unfortunately, even with the speediest care, many dogs do not survive.

Bloat can occur with or without torsion of the stomach and/or spleen, just as torsion can occur with or without bloat. When abnormal amounts of air, food, fluids get into the stomach, you have the right conditions for bloat. It can be caused by wolfing down too much water, too much food too fast, exercise after eating, stress, or conditions too numerous to mention and some unknown as well. Symptoms can be distended abdomen, excessive salivating, depression, lethargy - there are so many symptoms that you would just have to know your dog and know that something was not right.

When Bloat occurs it cuts off the esophagus and the blood supply to the heart is lessened causing low blood pressure as well as other cardiac problems. This causes the dog to go into shock. Organ damage can occur as well and the stomach may rupture causing peritonitis to set in. This can also affect the stomach and spleen and cause torsion. If not treated, the dog may die.

All GSMD owners are advised to acquaint their veterinarians and emergency care facilities that you have a GSMD and this is a breed that can be prone to bloat and torsion.

In the Purdue Bloat Study, they state that though there are ethical issues that need to be considered by dog breeders and veterinarians, any dog that is prone to GDV should have an elective gastropexy (stomach tack). This will not prevent bloat, but will prevent the torsion that usually occurs with the bloat, and the dogs chances of survival improve greatly.

Symptoms

- * Distended Abdomen
- * Excessive Salivating
- * Depression
- * Lethargy
- * Other symptoms occur

**This is a Life-Threatening Emergency
Call Your Veterinarian Immediately**



[Bloat and the Risk Factors By Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia](#)

Bloat Webinar

[Bloat: What Every Dog Owner Needs to Know](#)

In this webinar, Dr. Elizabeth Rozanski explains what every dog owner needs to know about gastric dilatation-volvulus, or bloat. She will present the signs and treatment options for bloat along with current options for prevention.

Dr. Elizabeth Rozanski is a board-certified specialist in emergency medicine and critical care and professor at the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Rozanski graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1992, completed an internship at the University of Minnesota, and then a residency in emergency and critical care at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Since 1996, she has worked at Tufts Veterinary School, where she directs the critical care service.

- See more at: <http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/multimedia/video/bloat.html#sthash.q78P97so.dpuf>