

# Quick Reference Guide for GDV

## BLOAT

Vet's Emergency Telephone Number.....

phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(GDV - Gastric Dilatation Volvulus)

	What is Happening	What the Dog Does	What You Should Do	Treatment
<b>Stress &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b> <b>Excitement &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b> <b>Vigorous Exercise &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b> <b>Large Meals &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b> <b>Long Drink &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b> <b>Swallowed Air &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b> <b>Familial Tendency &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<p>Stomach function is normal</p> <p>Gas accumulates in the stomach but the stomach does not empty as it should</p>	<p>Dog behaves as usual</p> <p>Seems slightly uncomfortable</p>	<p>Keep the dog quiet; Do not leave the dog alone; Give antacid if your vet agrees</p> <p>Be aware of Phase I symptoms</p>	<p>During this period the dog may recover without going on to develop Gastric Volvulus</p>
<p><b>PHASE I</b></p> <p><b>GDV</b></p>	<p>Stomach starts to dilate (Gastric Dilation)</p> <p>Stomach twists (Gastric Volvulus)</p>	<p>Anxious, restless, pacing; Trying to vomit – may bring up stiff white foam but no food; Salivating; Abdomen may be swollen</p>	<p>Call your vet, tell him what you suspect and why</p> <p>Take the dog to the vet without further delay</p>	<p>During this period the dog may recover if your vet releases the pressure with a stomach tube</p>
<p><b>PHASE II</b></p> <p><b>GDV</b></p>	<p>Blood supply to part of stomach is cut off. Stomach tissue is damaged.</p> <p>Portal vein, vena cava and splenic vein become compressed and twisted. Spleen becomes engorged. Shock begins to develop</p>	<p>Very restless; whining and panting; Salivating copiously; Tries to vomit every 2-3 min; Stands with legs apart &amp; head hanging down; Abdomen swollen and sounds hollow if tapped; Gums dark red. Heart rate 80-100beats/min; Temperature raised (40°C)</p>	<p>Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why</p> <p>Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible</p>	<p>During this period the vet will need to relieve the stomach pressure, start an intravenous drip and perform surgery to untwist the stomach</p>
<p><b>PHASE III</b></p> <p><b>GDV</b></p>	<p>Spleen and stomach tissue become Necrotic</p> <p>Shock now very severe</p> <p>Heart failure develops</p> <p>Shock now irreversible</p> <p>Death</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>Temperature drops (36.7°C)</p>	<p>Death is imminent</p> <p>Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why</p> <p>Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>It is no longer possible to save the dog's life</p>