



## CASE STUDY: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF GASTRIC DILATATION AND VOLVULUS IN A YOUNG GOLDENDOODLE



### PATIENT OVERVIEW

- **Name:** Ozzy
- **Age:** 1 year
- **Breed:** Male Goldendoodle
- **Presenting Complaint:** Non-productive retching following physical activity

### BACKGROUND

Ozzy, a 1-year-old male Goldendoodle, was visiting Charleston with his family when he experienced sudden onset of non-productive retching after outdoor play. Recognizing the potential urgency of his symptoms, his owners promptly brought him to **Island Pet Urgent Care**, where he was evaluated by Dr. Jill Odle.

### INITIAL ASSESSMENT & STABILIZATION

Upon presentation, Ozzy exhibited classic signs of **Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus** (GDV), a life-threatening condition commonly seen in deep-chested breeds. GDV is characterized by gastric distension with rotation of the stomach, which can lead to compromised blood flow, shock, and even death if not promptly treated.

Dr. Odle initiated stabilization, which included IV fluids and monitoring, before arranging emergency transfer to the **Charleston Veterinary Referral Center** (CVRC) for definitive care.

### EMERGENCY INTERVENTION

Ozzy was admitted to the CVRC Emergency Room by Dr. Claire Akin, who confirmed the diagnosis and activated the surgical team. Dr. Steven Garnett, the on-call surgeon, was mobilized for immediate surgical intervention. During surgery, Dr. Garnett performed a gastropexy (to permanently fix the stomach in place and prevent future volvulus) and a splenectomy, as the spleen had become compromised due to the torsion.

### POSTOPERATIVE CARE & OUTCOME

Ozzy remained hospitalized for two days postoperatively for monitoring, pain management, and supportive care. He recovered well, displaying his signature sweet temperament throughout his stay. Staff noted that Ozzy frequently rolled over to show his belly, a favorite gesture when requesting affection or a belly rub. He was discharged home in stable condition and continues to recover well. Ozzy is now back with his family, enjoying his favorite things: chicken and belly rubs.

### CONCLUSION

**GDV is a surgical emergency that requires rapid diagnosis and intervention.** Early recognition by Ozzy's owners, efficient stabilization at Island Pet Urgent Care, and coordinated transfer to a specialty center were all crucial in achieving a successful outcome.

This case highlights the importance of public awareness, early veterinary intervention, and collaborative care in managing time-sensitive emergencies like GDV.

### VETERINARY TEAM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Dr. Jill Odle – Island Pet Urgent Care
- Dr. Claire Akin – CVRC Emergency Department
- Dr. Steven Garnett – CVRC Surgical Services



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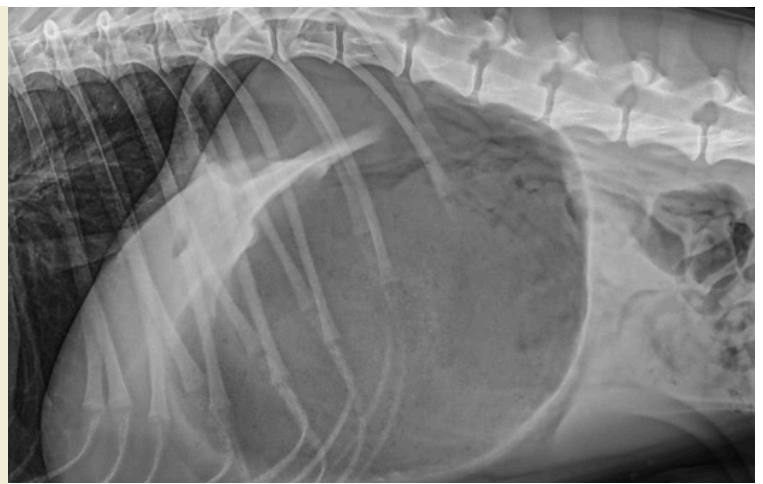


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**GDV IS CHARACTERIZED BY GASTRIC DISTENSION WITH ROTATION OF THE STOMACH, WHICH CAN LEAD TO COMPROMISED BLOOD FLOW, SHOCK, AND EVEN DEATH IF NOT PROMPTLY TREATED.**



**DR. GARNETT PERFORMED A GASTROPEXY (TO PERMANENTLY FIX THE STOMACH IN PLACE AND PREVENT FUTURE VOLVULUS) AND A SPLENECTOMY, AS THE SPLEEN HAD BECOME COMPROMISED DUE TO THE TORSION.**



**OZZY RECOVERED WELL, DISPLAYING HIS SIGNATURE SWEET TEMPERAMENT THROUGHOUT HIS STAY. STAFF NOTED THAT OZZY FREQUENTLY ROLLED OVER TO SHOW HIS BELLY.**



**OZZY WAS DISCHARGED HOME IN STABLE CONDITION AND CONTINUES TO RECOVER WELL. OZZY IS NOW BACK WITH HIS FAMILY, ENJOYING HIS FAVORITE THINGS: CHICKEN AND BELLY RUBS.**

