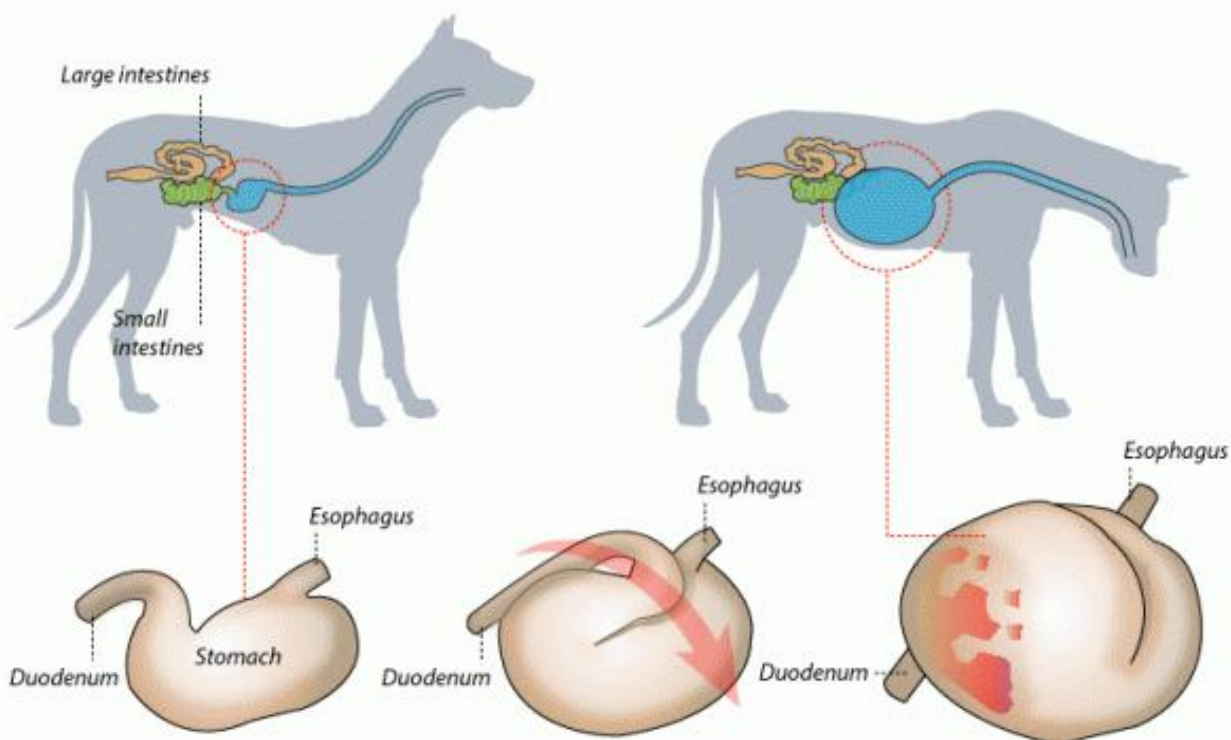


BLOAT: Is Your Dog at Risk?

Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV), also known as bloat, is a life-threatening condition in which the dog's stomach fills with air, fluid and/or food. The enlarged stomach twists and puts pressure on other organs, causing difficulty breathing and eventually decreasing blood supply to a dog's vital organs.



Eating fast, stress and having one large meal each day can cause bloat.

Gas and fluid cause the stomach to expand and twist.

The distended stomach presses against vital organs compromising blood flow.

Breeds most at risk

Large and giant dog breeds are most at risk for bloat due to a deep and narrow chest.

- Great Danes
- Saint Bernards
- Weimaraners
- Golden Retrievers
- German Shepherd Dogs
- Wolfhounds
- Bloodhounds

Symptoms

There are three phases of bloat.

PHASE 1

- Anxious and restless
- Distended abdomen
- Unsuccessful attempts to belch or vomit

PHASE 2

- Excessive salivation
- Rapid heartbeat

PHASE 3

- Weakness
- Shortness of breath
- Pale gums

Treatment

Initial treatment involves:

- Relieving pressure on the stomach
- Treating for shock
- A stomach tube may be passed to allow gas to escape
- Intravenous fluids to maintain blood pressure and support the heart's function.
- Surgery (involves emptying the stomach, rotating the stomach and spleen back into their correct positions, and removing any tissue that is too damaged to heal)