



AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club

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Watch for the Obscure Early Warning Sign of This Quick Killer

By Dr. Becker

The condition called "bloat" is exactly what it sounds like — the stomach swells to several times its normal size due to trapped gas, air, and in some cases, fluid.

In humans, an occasional bloated stomach is usually the result of overindulgence and nothing to worry about. In dogs, however, a bloated tummy can quickly become a life-or-death situation.

If your dog has simple bloat, also called gastric dilatation, his stomach is distended with gas and air but remains in position. It can be painful because the swelling puts pressure on blood vessels in the abdomen. In a worst-case scenario, the condition progresses to gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV).

GDV describes a situation in which the bloated stomach twists around on itself, squeezing off the blood supply to the stomach and spleen, and creating the potential for significant damage to other internal organs.

Gastric dilatation with volvulus is a life-threatening event in dogs. Without treatment, GDV can lead to death within a matter of hours.

Is My Dog at Risk for GDV?

GDV is most often seen in older, large and giant breed deep-chested (as opposed to barrel-chested) dogs. It may be a partially inherited trait, since many GDV dogs have relatives in their lineage that also have the condition. Breeds at highest risk include:

Great Dane
Basset Hound

Saint Bernard
Doberman Pinscher

**The deadline
for the February issue is
January 8**

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Weimaraner
Old English Sheepdog

Irish Setter
German Shorthaired Pointer

Gordon Setter
Newfoundland

Standard Poodle
German Shepherd

It's important to note that although genetics seem to play a role, bloat can affect any dog. Some studies suggest that elevated food dishes increase a dog's risk, as does fast eating. Dogs who gobble their meals and swallow air in the process seem to be at higher risk for GDV.

Other dietary habits considered to be risk factors include eating large amounts at each meal, eating just one meal a day, exercising shortly after a meal and drinking large quantities of water right after eating.

Post-meal stressful situations, as well as a generally fearful or aggressive temperament may also play a role.

Dogs fed primarily dry kibble are at significantly increased risk for GDV,¹ as are dogs who swallow indigestible or slow-to-digest foreign bodies, usually as a result of indiscriminate eating.²

Other suspected risk factors include increased gastrin concentration (gastrin is a hormone that controls release of acid in the stomach), decreased stomach motility and delayed gastric emptying (meaning food stays in the stomach longer than normal) and removal of the spleen.

How Can I Tell If My Dog Has Bloat?

Many of the very first signs of GDV in a dog can be easy to miss. Your dog may seem anxious. She may stand and stretch, or nip at or guard her abdomen. Panting and drooling are also common. If your dog has simple bloat, she should be able to relieve the pressure by belching.

But if the bloat has caused a volvulus, she won't be able to expel the gas and air because both the entry and exit to the stomach are pinched shut. Signs your dog has developed GDV include:

• Remarkably distended abdomen filled with air

• Unproductive belching, retching and/or vomiting

• Noticeable abdominal pain that interferes with her movements

• Restlessness

• Rapid decline in her condition accompanied by shallow, rapid breathing and pale gums

Why You Must Take Immediate Action

GDV can quickly become a serious systemic issue because the bloating of your dog's stomach puts pressure on blood vessels, inhibiting their ability to pump properly. Pressure on the diaphragm makes breathing difficult, and when the stomach twists on itself, blood circulation is further inhibited.

Toxins are released into the bloodstream and blood flow back to the heart is compromised. This can put your dog in a state of shock in as little as 20 minutes to an hour after the volvulus develops.

Since there's a good chance you won't be able to tell whether your pet has simple bloat or bloating with volvulus, you should get him to your veterinarian's office or the nearest emergency animal hospital right away.

If possible, administer homeopathic Belladonna, Nux Vomica, or Carbo Veg (depending on your dog's specific symptoms) on the way to the vet to try to mitigate rapid progression of the emergency.

Without immediate veterinary care, your dog's stomach will ultimately rupture and cause peritonitis, a fatal

cont'd on p. 2 ...WATCH

LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

* **DECALS & PINS.** You can get AMSC decals (\$1.00) and replacement pins (\$7.50) from

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Report all changes to the Roster to treasurer@AMSC.us

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.WATCH...from p. 1

abdominal infection. The most important factor in saving GDV patients is the time that elapses between presentation of symptoms and surgery.

I can't stress enough the importance of getting your dog immediate veterinary care if you suspect bloat or GDV.

What to Expect at the Vet's Office

GDV is diagnosed with X-rays. Your dog will first be stabilized with intravenous (IV) fluids and oxygen, and an attempt will be made to move the accumulated gas and fluid out of the stomach. Once your dog is stabilized, she'll undergo anesthesia and surgery to untwist the stomach and tack it to the inside of the abdominal wall in a procedure called a gastropexy.

The gastropexy should be performed as soon as possible, because GDVs recur at a rate of nearly 100 percent in dogs who don't receive the surgery. The recurrence rate after gastropexy is less than 5 percent, and while the stomach can still dilate (bloat), it is unlikely to rotate.³

During the surgery, your dog's stomach will be examined for damaged areas that may need to be removed as the result of poor blood circulation. Sometimes the spleen is also torqued and must be untwisted. Occasionally, the spleen may need to be removed if it has been significantly damaged.

Antimicrobials are usually given to address bacteria that leak into the bloodstream from the damaged intestine. There can also be blood pH and electrolyte disturbances that must be corrected. If irregularities in the heart rate are occurring they must be carefully managed, and the kidneys may also need to be monitored.

Aftercare

Your dog will not be able to exercise for the first couple of weeks after surgery, and should be fed a bland diet in small meals along with frequent small amounts of water. Acupuncture may be beneficial in managing pain and supporting the return of normal contractions of the stomach and intestine.

Laser therapy may also be helpful to speed healing and reduce pain around the incision site. I would also recommend a high-quality probiotic supplement to reseed the digestive tract with friendly bacteria, and nutritional supplements and herbs appropriate to support other organs such as the kidneys.

How to Help Prevent GDV in Your Dog

If your dog is a high-risk breed (or a mixed breed with a deep chest):

- Feed a species-appropriate fresh food diet with no grains or other fermentable carbohydrates.
- Feed two to three smaller meals a day versus one large meal.
- Slow down the speed at which your dog eats by offering food from a special bowl like the Brake-Fast.
- Make sure the food you're feeding contains no preservatives, genetically modified (GM) ingredients, or citric acid and add probiotics and digestive enzymes to assist in digestion and assimilation of food.
- Don't vigorously exercise your dog for an hour after he eats, and don't allow him to drink large amounts of water during that time.
- Be very careful not to allow your dog to have recreational bones or chews, toys or other foreign objects that are difficult or impossible to digest.
- Minimize stress on your pet. Make sure she is well exercised (though not right after meals, as I've discussed). Most large breed dogs need lots of daily physical activity to maintain muscle tone and range of motion, decrease cortisol (stress hormone) levels and relieve boredom.
- You'll also want to keep vaccines to a minimum to reduce immunologic stress, and limit the amount of chemicals your pet is exposed to orally, topically and in the environment.

Some veterinarians recommend gastropexy as a preventive measure in high-risk dogs who have not yet experienced an episode of bloat. The procedure is usually performed at the same time the pet is sterilized.

My first recommendation would be to try to prevent GDV with the right diet and other lifestyle choices. However, if your dog is a breed prone to the condition and has a near relative (parent, sibling or offspring) who has had a GDV, gastropexy may be your best option.



NEW APPLICANTS

Wyn Hagmaier

10604 Ashford Dr.
Yukon, OK 73099
503-951-3060
Paragon

Wyn is a former AMSC Board member, breeder and owner handler. She was also an active member of the Portland Miniature Schnauzer Club for many years. Following a hiatus from purebred dogs, she has once again begun showing a new mini and feels the need to become active once again. She agrees to Support both the Breed Standard and the Code of Ethics. She breeds two litters a year and is involved in Conformation. Wyn would like to continue to learn as well as helping others.

Sponsors:Carla Nickerson,Amy Gordon

Emily Landers

563 Buttonwood Dr.
Graniteville, SC 29829
706-951-7400
Avalon

Emily would like to join AMSC so she can be involved with the betterment of the Miniature Schnauzer. She agrees to abide by the Breed Standard and the Code of Ethics. She is also a breeder of Bedlington Terriers, involved in Conformation, and professional grooming. She attends between one and three dog events per month. Emily is a groomer and handling assistant. She would like to use her skills in grooming, education and social media.

Sponsors:Kurt Garmaker,Leslie Medelsson

Brenda Ward

11858 N. Wildwood Ln
Camby, IN 46113
317-308-9240

Brenda would like to become a member because she has owned four AKC Miniature Schnauzers from Karla Hench of Stonewood Kennel and loves the breed. In the last three years she has become involved in Conformation and has finished her first Champion with the help of Karla. She wants to continue learning about preserving and promoting healthy purebred dogs. She agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. Brenda attends approximately twelve shows per year under the guidance of her mentor. She is always willing to help other exhibitors when possible.

Sponsors:Karla Hench, Gale Schnetzer

Caitlin Wright

1429 Poplar Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
737-529-6170

Caitlin would like to become a member of AMSC after receiving her first Miniature Schnauzer from Barbara Donahue. She would like to become more involved in the breed community in breed and performance. She agrees

to abide by the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. Caitlin attends approximately six events per year but plan to do more in the future. Her occupation is Pet Stylist and is Nationally Certified. She is proficient with technology and social media.
Sponsors:Barbara Donahue,Vicki Kubic

Jason McQueen

31 Dudley Lane
Marshfield, MA 02050
336-392-7665

Jason is a Sport Horse Manager/Product, Development and researcher. He would like to become a member of AMSC so he can connect with responsible breeders and learn more about our breed. He has read and agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and the breed standard. He has five Miniature Schnauzers and one Rat Terrier mix (rescue). Jason attends approximately five shows per year but his dogs compete at more than seventy-five shows. He doesn't belong to any other clubs. He possess a deep understanding and experience with animal husbandry and health and feels that may help him to be useful to the club.

Sponsors: Silvia Soos-Kazel, Vicki Kubic

Debra Ann Lindsay

66 Stendahl Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
203-913-0861

Deb was a member formerly but dropped out due to family health issues, but continued to own and be active in conformation with her dogs. She is currently Secretary and Specialty Chair for the Paul Revere MSC. She currently owns four Miniature Schnauzers and three Tibetan Spaniels. She agrees to comply and support both the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. Deb is a member of Trap Falls KC and is on the board, The Tibetan Spaniel Club of America as a member and Specialty Chair, and a member of Stewards Club of America for fifteen years. She is a retired Special Ed teacher and would like to help with Trophies and Stewarding.

Sponsors:Bonnie Keyes, Vicki Kubic

Patricia & Jerry Stults

P.O. Box 65
Lillian, TX 76061
817-534-0044

Diamond S Ranch

Patricia and Jerry would like to become members because they have loved and respected Miniature Schnauzers for over forty years. They also raise registered purebred cattle. The primary focus in all their breeding programs is constant genetic improvement utilizing historic as well as leading edge research to obtain overall longevity, good health and beauty in all their animals. They agree to abide by the Code of Ethics and Breed Standard. Their stud dogs and bitches have produced fifteen litters of Standard Schnauzers and Miniature Schnauzers in the past five years. Patricia and Jerry are

Tammy Hirstein Stinton

8122 Treasure Island Road
Leesburg, Florida 34788
352-461-3528

Tammy is a retired School Teacher and has been involved with Min. Schnauzers her entire life due to her parents, Lanny & Penny Hirstein. She started by exhibiting in Junior Showmanship at the age of eleven. She wishes to continue learning and sharing her knowledge of this breed and agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and Breed Standard. She is a breeder and attends at least twenty shows per year. Tammy exhibits in Conformation and Lure Coursing. She belongs to the Ibizan Hound Club of the United States and has held the position of Secretary. She is willing to volunteer for Public Awareness and Education.

Sponsors:Marie Pletsch, Kurt Garmaker

Debbie Gautz

9865 Blarney Lane
Carthage, MO 64836
417-438-8712

Debbie would like to become a member in order to protect the standard and colors. She agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. She is a breeder and has had ten litters from her stud dogs or bitches in the last five years. She attends approximately five events per year. Debbie has been breeding for forty-five years and in Conformation for seven years. She isn't a member of any clubs and her occupation is "home dogs".

Sponsors:Patricia Bond, Marie Murphy

Paul Stephens & Cheri Stephens

P.O. Box 971
Sugarloaf, CA 92386
951-742-9316

Paul and Cheri want to join the AMSC to preserve the Breed Standard in California. Paul is retired from County Government and Cheri is in Home Health Care. They feel that as members they can show that they are ethical breeders that conform to the standard, and attempt to improve the breed by only breeding from healthy stock with no life altering genetic diseases. They own two females and two male studs. They will abide by the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. They are breeders and have had twenty litters either with their stud dogs or bitches. Genetic testing is done on all breeding stock. They are involved in Obedience and breeding. Paul and Cheri have one dog with a CGC title with another working on a CGC. They both have great organizational skills, computer/tech and are great at teaching about Miniature Schnauzers.

Sponsors:Yolanda Viggiano,Dale Miller

Top 10 Reasons to be Thankful for Dogs

To celebrate the beginning of the holiday season, we've put together a list of our top 10 favorite reasons we are so thankful for our dogs.

Dogs are always there for us at home. Whether we work from home or commute home after a long day of work, our dogs are always there to greet us. They stay by our side during long calls and are ready to make our friends and family smile no matter the occasion.

When we leave the house, nothing makes a pet parent's day quite like coming home to the love of a dog. Our dogs never get tired of welcoming us home, and greet us like we've been gone for five years, even if it's only been five minutes. Whether you've had a long day at work or are just heading home from a quick errand, nothing beats the love of your pooch waiting to meet you at the door.

Dogs keep us healthy and active
Whether they realize it or not, our furry best friends do a great job of getting us moving! In fact, according to a study in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, dog parents are 34% more likely than those without dogs to get the right amount of exercise for their health.

Even just a half an hour walk with your dog each day can do wonders to relieve stress and potentially reduce your risk for developing cardiovascular disease. This time of year is especially great for getting outside with your dog and experiencing everything fall has to offer together!

Dogs provide protection
Big and little dogs alike can help keep us safe. With little more than a quick, loud bark, our dogs can warn family members something is wrong or frighten away strangers from the door.

Maybe it is just us, but sleeping at night feels a little easier when you know your best friend is alert and always protecting you at any hour. No matter their size, it's comforting to have your own

personal watchdog, and that is definitely something to be thankful for!

Dogs ask so little of us
When is the last time your dog complained about anything you did? Even when we have to leave our dogs alone for hours, our four-legged friends are nothing but thrilled to see us when we get back.

All our dogs need to be happy is shelter, food, water, and maybe most importantly to them, love! When you stop and consider all the ways our dogs fill our lives with joy and happiness, they really ask so little of us in return!

Dogs are role models for how to live
Our furry friends can teach us a great deal about how to be better versions of ourselves. Dogs shower everyone with unwavering love and remain loyal through thick and thin. They long to be helpful at every opportunity and never hesitate to spread their love and affection. We can learn so much about being good to one another just by observing our furry friends.

Dogs chase away our blues
If anything can make us feel better after a difficult day, it's coming home to your dog just waiting to bombard you with doggie kisses and cuddles. In fact, studies have even shown that people who have pets are less lonely or less likely to become depressed or anxious.

No matter what kind of day you have, it's certainly a comfort to have your furry friend there by your side to make everything a whole lot better.

Dogs accept us just the way we are
Dogs love everyone for exactly who they are, and never question or judge us for who we aren't. Dogs don't ask us to change, and they never withhold their cuddles and licks, no matter what mood we may be in. Our dogs love us exactly as we are, and for that, we couldn't love them more!

Dogs make us laugh

When you live with a dog. It's like living with an in-house comedian who is always ready to make you laugh. They can have us in stitches and make us smile at the drop of a hat, whether they realize it or not! We are so thankful that playing a game with them or even just watching them zoomie around is such an easy way to fill a home with laughter.

Dogs provide companionship
Dogs truly make the best friends. Just like you are there to care for them each and every day, our dogs are there for us in return to comfort and support us. On good days or bad, our furry pals are always by our side. Whether we need a jogging buddy, a snuggle buddy, or a buddy to make us laugh, we can count on our dogs to always be there when we need them.

Dogs keep our lives interesting
Good times or hard times, one thing is for sure – life with a dog is always entertaining! Whether you're watching your best bud run around the dog park with outbursts of energy, teaching them new tricks, or taking a vacation together, our dogs are sure to bring plenty of smiles to every adventure.

Give Thanks to Your Furry Friends Each Day of the Year

No matter the season or holiday, our four-legged family members give us a lot to be thankful for.



RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF CCD

There's getting old ... and then there's canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD) or doggie dementia.

Dog owners often assume strange behaviors in senior dogs are just part of the normal aging process. Dementia can develop slowly, so you might not notice much of a difference day to day.

CCD is surprisingly common. One study found that about half of all dogs over 11 years old had at least one sign of CCD. It's a progressive disease, so if you start to notice signs in your dog, he may develop more CCD symptoms over the next year or so.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE CCD

Here are some things you might think are normal aging, but in fact they can mean your dog is experiencing some dementia.

DISHA is an acronym that's helpful in identifying signs of doggie dementia.

D for Disorientation

You may see your dog staring into space or getting lost in familiar places. He may not be able to find his way around the house, or he may get stuck in corners or behind furniture. He may wander around your yard and get lost, or trapped behind a bush. He may seem confused all the time.

Some dogs forget you've fed them and pester you for meals. Or they forget where their food and water dishes are.

Others become anxious for no particular reason, or they may start barking at nothing.

Continual pacing and aimless wandering are other common symptoms. You may also see obsessive-compulsive behaviors like licking the floors.

I for Interactions

Your old dog's relationships may decline. He may either show less affection than before, or he could become clingy. and stick to a family member like glue.

Some dogs may get irritable or grumpy. This can sometimes be because of pain or illness so if you're not sure, a vet exam can be a good idea.

Your dog may stop responding to cues, or become unable to do tasks as he used to.

S for Sleep-Wake Cycle

Dogs may show cognitive changes at night too, and the sleep-wake cycle can be disturbed. This is also called sundowners syndrome ... when your dog gets disoriented, restless or anxious at night. It may be worse in winter months when the days are shorter.

Your dog might seem unsettled in the evenings or through the whole night. Some dogs with dementia barely sleep at night and are up wanting your attention. Others bark in the night for no apparent reason.

H for House Soiling

Your dog may forget all his house-training and start peeing and pooping in the house. This can also happen because when he needs to go, he can't find his way outside in time ... if at all. Or he might just forget where he is and pee or poop wherever he happens to be.

A for Activity

Some old dogs don't want to go for walks any more ... or do much of anything. This could be due to pain or stiffness, but it can be a cognitive issue too.

Dogs may not be interested in their favorite toys or treats. In fact, some may even not want to eat ... or they'll drop a piece of food and then be unable to find it on the floor.

If you notice some of these changes, your dog isn't just a senior ... he likely has doggie dementia.

SNOW GLOBES

Several dogs have died from these Dogs manag to pull a snow globe from a shelf. As fast as you get to it and wipe the dogs and the floor...the liquid is everywhere. The liquid does not feel like water. When googled, you see that snow globes have antifreeze in them. The antifreeze is sweet and the dogs lick it. They will die within a day. If you have snow globes keep them out of the way. Keep the dogs safe.



AMSCOPE

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FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: The following information is given to help conduct AMSC business more efficiently. Please remember that the Secretary and the AMSCOPE editor should **BOTH** be notified of address changes, club officers and specialty results.

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