

Quick Reference Guide for Canine Bloat (GDV).

Condition	Symptoms	What to Do	Treatment
Beginning of bloat in which gas is building up and not exiting the stomach as it should.	Seems uncomfortable laying down, paces or seems restless. May walk with head down.	Monitor dog closely, do not leave alone. Give antacid or crushed fennel seed in only 2 small bites of their regular food. DO NOT feed more than a couple bites of food until they pass gas.	If you are diligent in tending to your dog during this phase, they may recover.
Stomach dilates and may twist.	Above behavior plus keeps trying to vomit but nothing comes out. Abdomen hard and distended. May cough or try to have a bowel movement without anything coming out.	Give antacid or fennel as above and call your vet immediately and tell them you think your dog has bloat. Take your dog to the vet without delay.	Once taken to the vet, your dog may recover if the vet releases the gas pressure with a tube.
Blood supply to stomach is cut off. Going into shock.	Very restless, whining, panting, salivating, gums dark red, heart rate 80-100 beats/min. Stands with legs apart, head down, abdomen hard and bloated.	Give antacid or fennel as above. If possible, get someone to call your vet while you are on your way. Get your dog to an emergency clinic immediately!	Vet will have to perform emergency surgery to save your pet.
Spleen and stomach become necrotic (tissue dies). Shock, heart failure develops and death.	Unable to stand or stands with legs apart and may be shaky. Abdomen swollen, breathing shallow, gums white or blue, heart rate over 100 beats/min. Weak pulse. Temp drops (98°)	Death is imminent, but get your dog to the vet immediately anyway. It may not be what you think or the vet can perform emergency surgery to save your dog.	Vet will do everything but it may not be possible to save your dog at this point. It is highly unlikely. If he does, parts of the stomach and spleen that have died off will have to be removed. Success is poor.