

Bloat Symptoms

- ❖ **Doesn't act like usual self** (unusual behavior coupled with unsuccessful vomit attempts = **get to vet immediately**) – **this is the earliest warning sign** and may be the easiest to ignore as it can be very subtle.
- ❖ **Unsuccessful attempts to vomit, retching:** usually nothing comes up or just foam/mucous, or may have foam or mucous around the mouth. Excessive drooling, usually accompanied by retching noises. May vomit foam or mucous.
- ❖ **Unable to defecate.**
- ❖ **Anxious or Restless Behavior** may include pacing, fidgeting, acting agitated or uncomfortable.
- ❖ **Licking weird things**, almost obsessively – may **lick the air**. (You will know it when you see it!)
- ❖ **Difficulty** breathing, shallow breathing, excessive panting or whining.
- ❖ **Rapid heart rate** (increases as bloat progresses) weak pulse.
- ❖ **Pale or very red gums**, gums that are not pink, cold mouth membrane.
- ❖ **Swelling in abdominal area** (may or may not be noticeable) or abdomen may become severely enlarged and/or hard to the touch.
- ❖ **Hunching up, curling up in a ball, crouching or praying position.**
- ❖ May try to **gulp water, or eat snow, dirt, rocks, stones, twigs or grass.**
- ❖ **Absence of** gurgling or digestive sounds in the tummy.
- ❖ **Standing** spread-legged, **refusing** to lay or sit down, **unable** to stand, collapse.
- ❖ **Coughing or gagging.**
- ❖ **Drinking excessively.**
- ❖ **Looking at their side** (the source of pain).

Do This IMMEDIATELY in the Order Given

From what I've read - substitutions for GasX such as generics or other brands are NOT recommended! GasX (the real thing) is supposed to be the best option.

If you see ANY of these symptoms – grab the GasX. Puncture or cut off the very top of 2 capsules and squeeze the liquid down the back of the dog's throat.

It's not supposed to taste all that bad and **you must try your best to do this very calmly**, it's **important not to add more stress** and you being upset or excited in any way will add stress.

Put a third GasX complete intact down the throat.

Immediately thereafter get the dog secured IN THE CAR and GO! Call the vet from your cell on the way. Tell them you think your dog may be bloating and give your ETA.

If the dog's symptoms worsen, if they're on the verge of collapse, has collapsed, or collapses on the way to the e-Vet -- call them AGAIN and TELL THEM so they can meet you at the door with a crash cart.

Emergency Vet Phone: _____

Hours of Operation: _____

(Note - bloat can happen at any time so having a 24 hour eVet available is imperative!)

Address: _____

Directions: _____

End Note: As a precaution, I suggest you contact and ask your regular vet a.s.a.p. if they are equipped to handle bloat. If they tell you "No" then do some footwork to find the nearest EMERGENCY vet that IS equipped to handle bloat. Do this before you may need it.

I feel much better having an emergency vet available for **any** emergency. Some vet clinics simply aren't equipped or knowledgeable **enough** to handle all emergencies and I don't want to be wasting time going from one vet to another if the situation could be life-threatening. A regular vet is like a GP Doctor for people. They are not and should not be expected to know it all. To expect this is expecting too much of **any** general vet. A GP Doctor will refer people to specialists when warranted as will a conscientious regular vet. In the case of a life-threatening emergency -- you may not have time for this.