

Tips for feeding large dogs (bloat)

Feng Shui with Fido™ Philosophy: Large breed pups and dogs can be prone to a thing called bloat. This is not good and can be dangerous. The following feeding safety tips can prevent a very bad thing from occurring. Here are a few things for you to know.

What is bloat? Bloat is a condition known as gastric dilation-volvulus (GDV) and it can be extremely life threatening that can cause sudden death amongst dogs. Bloat occurs when too much air, food or liquid fills your dogs stomach, causing it to blow up like a balloon, twist and put pressure on the vital organs. This decreases the oxygen flow and blood supply to the organs surrounding the stomach. Age can also play a factor in bloat. The way you feed your large rib caged dog is an important factor in preventing bloat from happening and dog owner awareness is key.

why: There are many ways bloat can happen including rapid eating or drinking, heavy exercise after eating, over eating or drinking, breed type or genetic disposition.

when: Morning and evening meals. Feed your dog two small meals twice a day rather than one large meal.



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where: If you have multiple dogs, it's helpful to feed your dog separately. Use a gated area to avoid competition and speedy eating.

How to prevent bloat by proper feeding:

1. Never let your dog gulp his food.
2. Wait an hour before and after exercising your dog to feed him.
3. Be careful of water intake, especially before and after exercising.
4. Feeding two smaller sized meals a day (instead of one large meal) can be helpful.

What are the symptoms of bloat?

Licking the air, seeking a hiding place, attempting to eat small twigs, stones or grass (trying to self-induce vomiting) trying to burp, refusing to lie down, whining or pacing, abnormal salivation, distended abdomen, shortness of breath, pale gums, rapid heartbeat, weakness, and fainting.

What should you do if you think your dog has bloat? If your dog is an at-risk breed for bloat, always keep a supply of gas-x available. Talk to your vet about if this prevention is a good option for your dog. If you suspect your dog has bloat, give him one tablet of gas-x (it's chewable and your



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dog should take it and eat it) and go to the vet immediately! Don't wait to see if the symptoms pass. Bloat can kill your dog with in an hour!

Always educate yourself and ask your local vet about your dog's health and care!



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