

# Waste No Time!

In the world of veterinary care, illness, accidents and emergencies are all part of our daily life. The sooner we see a poorly animal the better. However, we know it is not always possible to immediately bring your pet to us, but there is a condition where time is not on our side, and for us rings major alarm bells! This condition is called **Bloat**.

**Bloat** or *Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV)* is when a dog's stomach literally does bloat. This can then lead to serious complications and unfortunately life-threatening circumstances. Any breed is at risk from Bloat, but more prone are the **larger** or **deep-chested** breeds such as the Great Dane, Doberman, St Bernard, Irish Wolfhound, Weimaraner, Irish Setter, German Shepherd and Greyhounds.

## Take one dog.....

His stomach, high in the abdomen, holds fluids, some gas and has a busy process going on, receiving and digesting food. In general, this all goes like clockwork. However, suddenly it all changes. His stomach begins to inflate. Our dog is now experiencing intense pain, and as the condition rapidly worsens and the stomach continues to increase in size, it begins to twist, cutting off the blood supply to the stomach and also the exit for gas to escape. This is known as **Gastric Torsion**.

## Hello Dog Owners....

*I am microchipped! My person had me chipped not long after I arrived, as it is a quick, reliable and permanent way to identify me, should I get lost and found.*



*Cats don't have to be chipped, but we highly recommend it for protection against loss.*



Weimaraner

**The dog will have been showing some of these signs -**

- A bloated hard abdomen**
- Repeated and failed attempts to vomit or burp - Panting**
- Breathing difficulties - Anxiousness**
- Excessive salivation - Drooling**
- Pale gums - Evidence of pain**
- Cold body temperature**

From the onset of the above signs

**Bloat is a real emergency!**

### Early recognition and prompt action

If you notice any of these signs in your own dog, take them to a vet immediately as Bloat/GDV requires urgent life-saving treatment.

It is difficult to pinpoint why Bloat happens, but there are particular risk factors involved.

### The dog may have been....

- Bolting food or gulping air during one large daily meal**
- Overeating - Drinking lots of water**
- Highly active after eating**
- Stressed or excited temperament**

**Aim to Prevent** Feed smaller and more frequent meals. Speak to us about quantity and types of diet. Avoid heavy and excitable exercise, and limit intake of water before and after food.

*Please contact us for further advice on preventing the serious condition of Bloat.*

*I have my own ID number logged on a central computer database, which is accessible 24/7. A special scanner held by various rescue centres, local authorities and vets reads this ID number, and my person is contacted so we can be happily reunited.*

*To all you persons out there - If you have not microchipped your dog yet, I would advise you to do it asap, because on the 6 April 2016 it actually becomes law in England.*

*All dogs over the age of 8 weeks old must be microchipped, and the details registered on an approved commercial database.*

*Owners need to keep the details up to date, especially when moving home. If they sell or give the dog away, the new ownership details must be registered **before** the dog leaves.*

*Dogs that come to the attention of the police or local authorities that are not microchipped, will be given a short period of time for owners to comply. Failure to do so could result in a £500 fine.*

*This is being introduced to help us dogs, and encourage responsible ownership. Some of us enjoy loving homes, while others are not so lucky and are dumped by the roadside or left outside rescue centres.*

**For full information visit**  
[www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk) or [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## Surgery Hours

*Our friendly support staff are available all day for pet healthcare and advice*

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday**

**8.30am - 6.30pm**

**Tuesday & Thursday**

**9.30am - 7.30pm**

**Saturday 9am - 12 noon**

*Consultations with the vets & nurses are by appointment only*

**24hr Emergency Service**

here at the surgery and with your usual vets

**Call day or night**

**01606 880 890**



# The Pet Alphabet

**A**nimals give love, cuddles and are our friends.

**B**ad Breath can be a sign of dental problems. Pop them in for a check-up.

**C**hocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats. Store well out of their reach.

**D**ieting may be necessary for overweight pets, as they are at risk from diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.



**E**ars are responsible for your pets' hearing and balance. Keep clean & infection free.

**F**ootpads act as a shock absorber when running and jumping.

**G**rass seeds can embed into ears, toes and pads, so check regularly, especially after exercise.

**H**airballs may cause your cat to gag or retch in attempt to remove them. If this fails, call us for further advice as your pet may need help.

**I**tching excessively could mean a hotspot, food allergy, fleas, even an earmite infestation, so a visit to the vet is needed.

**J**oke: What did the flea say to his wife as they came out of the movies? Shall we walk home or take a dog?!

**K**eratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry-eye) occurs when tear glands are damaged by the immune system and produce little or no tears. Treatment is available to preserve vision and ease discomfort.

**L**OVE is what all pets need!

**M**yxomatosis is a virus spread from wild to pet rabbits by fleas, and causes swellings around the face, ears, eyes and mouth. It affects their ability to eat, drink, see and is sadly often fatal. Vaccination is available for rabbits from 5-6 weeks old.



Watch out for **N** to **Z** in our next newsletter.



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# TIGER-STARGAZER-EASTER-RUBRUM

Lilies are indeed beautiful, but all you felines out there need to steer well clear of these flowers, as they are highly poisonous to cats!

All types and every part of this flower are a danger; the stem, leaves, flowers and stamens can be bitten and chewed, while fallen pollen is licked off coats and paws. Cats are inquisitive creatures, especially the young, and just ingesting a small amount of this plant can cause

**vomiting-breathing difficulties  
lethargy-depression-loss of appetite**

If you recognise any of these signs or even suspect that your cat has been in contact with or eaten any part of a lily, **please contact a vet immediately.** Lily poisoning can cause acute kidney failure, and sadly in some cases is fatal. The sooner treatment can begin the better. **Play it safe and avoid having lilies in your house or garden.**



## Need Repeat Medication? .....allow 24 hours please

Dispensing medication for your pet correctly is very important

If you should require repeat medication, it is necessary for our staff to obtain authorisation from a vet. For most of the day, our vets are busy consulting, operating and writing up their clinical notes. Therefore, they will need time to check your pet's records before we can begin to prepare and dispense their medication. Should your pet be on a long-term course of treatment with us, it is required by law that our vet examines the patient at regular intervals. Therefore you may be asked to bring your pet in for a re-check, before any further medication can be dispensed to you. Occasionally, our stock levels may be low or we may need to order in special medication from our suppliers, and this can take a day or two to reach us.



To ensure that we give you and your pet the best attention at all times, please note we require **24 HOURS NOTICE for repeat medication orders.**

Just call our friendly receptionists who will be happy to assist you.



[www.hollybankvets.co.uk](http://www.hollybankvets.co.uk)