

Canine First Aid Kit

Essential Items

- Muzzle or rolled gauze, a scarf, or pantyhose for making a muzzle
Injured dogs will bite instinctively, even their most loved person
- Honey, Karo Syrup, or other high sugar source
Rub on the gums of a dog who is crashing to give them a boost on the way to the ER
- Diphenhydramine* - with NO additional active ingredients
Used for allergic reactions. The dose is 1-2mg per pound
- Simethicone – GasX, Bloat Buster, etc.
If given early enough, it can stop bloat or at least slow it down while you get to the ER
- Hydrogen Peroxide
Used to induce vomiting. Use only under the guidance of a Veterinarian or poison control. Some substances are more harmful if vomited. Can also be used to clean wounds
- Activated Charcoal
Used to absorb toxins. Use only under the guidance of a Veterinarian or poison control.
- Sterile Saline Eye Wash
- Emergency Phone Numbers

Helpful Items

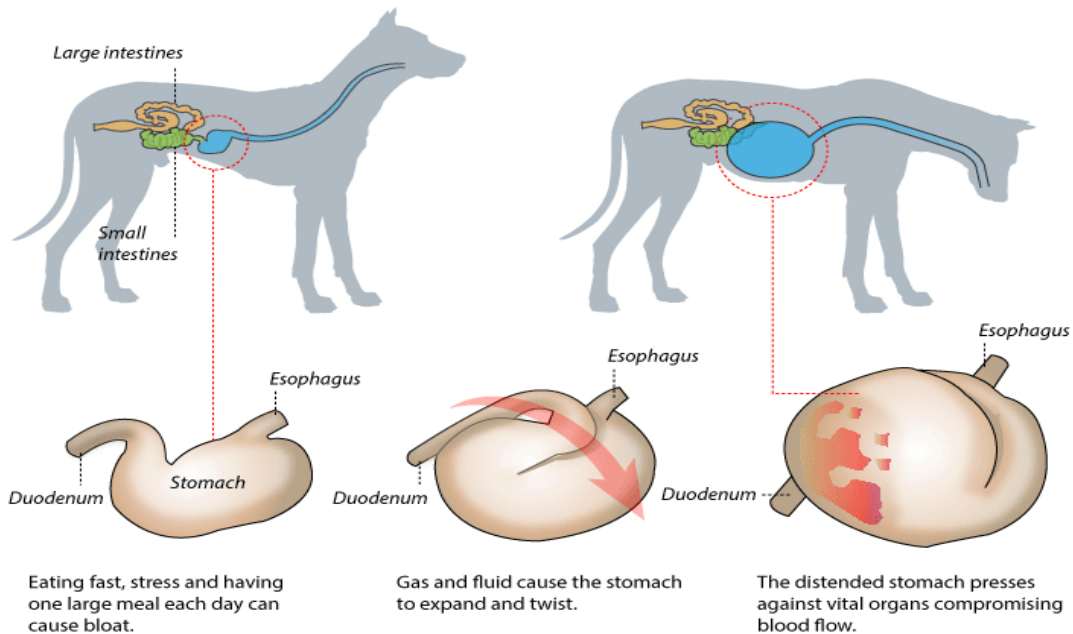
- Gauze pads, rolled gauze, vet wrap, tape, scissors
- Antiseptic – Betadine, Chlorhexidine, Alcohol etc.
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Thermometer and petroleum jelly
- Latex gloves
- Tweezers
- Comb
- Extra Leashes
- Bulb syringe for flushing wounds
- Styptic powder
- Emergency Thermal Blanket –used to maintain body temperature or as a way to lift an injured dog into the vehicle
- Loperamide – Imodium, Pepto, etc.
- Flashlight and/or pen light
- 10cc Syringe with no needle –for dispensing liquid medication
- Disposable razor – for shaving hair away from wounds
- Towel(s) –to clean blood or cover the head before moving an injured animal

Travel Tips

Before travelling with your dog(s), find out the location and phone number of the nearest ER animal hospital where you will be staying. Pack bottled water, bowls, extra food, and your dog's latest vet records. Make sure your dog is wearing a snugly fitted collar that won't slip off with up to date tags.

BLOAT: Is Your Dog at Risk?

Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV), also known as bloat, is a life-threatening condition in which the dog's stomach fills with air, fluid and/or food. The enlarged stomach twists and puts pressure on other organs, causing difficulty breathing and eventually decreasing blood supply to a dog's vital organs.



Breeds most at risk

Large and giant dog breeds are most at risk for bloat due to a deep and narrow chest.

- Great Danes
- Saint Bernards
- Weimaraners
- Golden Retrievers
- German Shepherd Dogs
- Wolfhounds
- Bloodhounds

Symptoms

There are three phases of bloat.

PHASE 1

- Anxious and restless
- Distended abdomen
- Unsuccessful attempts to belch or vomit

PHASE 2

- Excessive salivation
- Rapid heartbeat

PHASE 3

- Weakness
- Shortness of breath
- Pale gums

Treatment

Initial treatment involves:

- Relieving pressure on the stomach
- Treating for shock
- A stomach tube may be passed to allow gas to escape
- Intravenous fluids to maintain blood pressure and support the heart's function.
- Surgery (involves emptying the stomach, rotating the stomach and spleen back into their correct positions, and removing any tissue that is too damaged to heal)

SOURCES: ASPCA.ORG, VETDEPOT.COM RESEARCH

veterinarian DEPOT
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Bloat Prevention

- Feed 2 measured meals each day
- Don't allow eating or drinking too fast
- Keep mealtimes calm and stress-free
- Keep your dog inside and calm for 30 minutes after eating
- Don't allow your dog to roll over soon after eating
- Talk to your Veterinarian about gastroplexy ("stomach tacking") if your dog is high risk