



## Prophylactic Gastropexy

GDV (gastric dilatation and volvulus) or "bloat" is a condition in which the stomach rotates and is filled with gas. This is a relatively common problem in large breed, deep chested dogs.

The term gastropexy, commonly referred to as "stomach tacking", is a procedure performed to aid in the prevention of bloat. During this surgery, the stomach is secured in its normal position to the inside of the body wall. This helps to prevent the stomach from twisting and causing both a medical and surgical emergency.

We are recommending this procedure in large breed, deep chested dogs which are predisposed to GVD. This preventative surgery can be performed in both males and females of any age. While this can most easily be performed at the time of spaying your pet, the procedure is not limited to females.

Question: If my dog is predisposed to bloat, why not just wait until it happens?

Although there are certain factors which may predispose your dog to GDV we cannot predict which dogs will actually end up bloating. It has been reported however that 20% to 40% of Great Danes will have GDV in their lifetime. Waiting until this becomes an emergency can be life threatening. When the stomach rotates it will lose blood supply. This leads to dead stomach tissue and toxin build up in the body. Arrhythmias (abnormal heart rhythms) can also be a result of the problem. This disease is very painful and most dogs usually present in a physiologic state of shock. The mortality rate can be greater than 30% depending on the health of the stomach at the time of surgery.

As with all anesthetic and surgical procedures there are risks associated. Not every dog is a candidate for this procedure and we are only recommending this procedure to our high risk patients. Please consider your options carefully and discuss your pet's needs with one of our veterinarians.