

Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club

JANUARY 2011

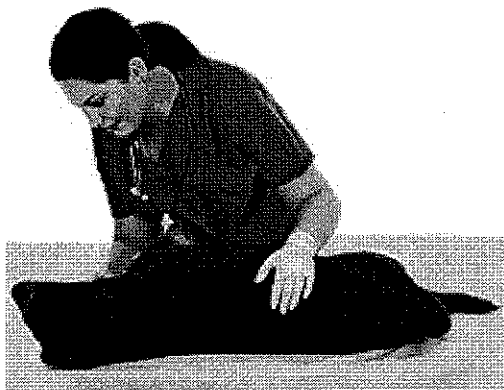
2008-2011

Is Your Dog At Risk For Bloat?

Canine bloat is a very serious health condition that affects dogs and can become a life-threatening emergency. Bloat is the second leading cause of death for dogs, after cancer. Understanding warning signs, prevention and treatment is critical to help reduce the risk of death if bloat should occur.

How does bloat occur?

The medical term for bloat is gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) and it is also referred to as 'stomach torsion' or 'twisted stomach.' In the bloated stomach, gas and/or food stretches the stomach



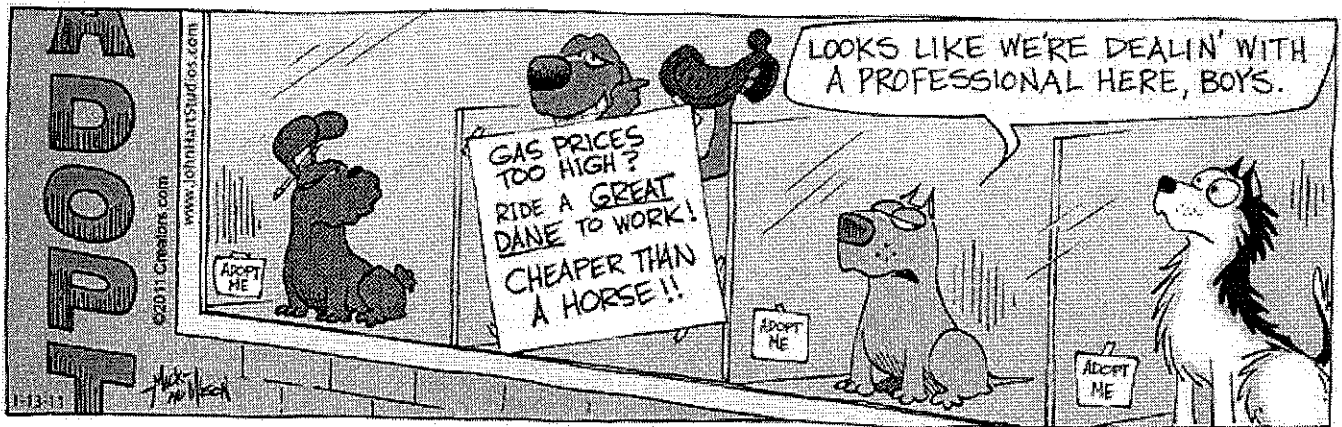
abnormally, causing severe pain. The

stomach then has a tendency to rotate and cuts off the blood supply and all possible areas for gas to exit the body.

When stomach gases cannot get out, they expand. If untreated, toxins build up and stomach tissue begins to die because it is too tight to allow blood to circulate. The liver, pancreas and other organs may be compromised and shock from low blood pressure can set in. If the stomach ruptures, peritonitis can result.

Some of the signs of bloat include a rapid heart rate, salivating, vomiting (or retching), restlessness, a swollen belly and weakness. If a dog is suspected to be suffering from bloat, it is critical to get immediate veterinary care. A dog cannot recover until the stomach is untwisted and the gases released. Even after a dog with bloat has been stabilized, there can be many related complications such as shock and heart failure. *(Continued page 3)*

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB



Once diagnosis has been confirmed, medical treatment might be sufficient, however, most cases require surgery. If tissue damage is severe, the spleen and part of the stomach might be removed.

When abdominal surgery is performed, it allows an assessment of the stomach and surrounding organs and a chance to reposition and suture the stomach (called a gastropexy), to help prevent twisting in the future. Post-operative care depends on the severity of the disease and the treatment methods used to date.

What causes bloat and how can it be prevented?

Typically, dogs with deep and narrow chests are said to be more at risk, but even small dogs, such as Dachshunds and Chihuahuas, *can* be affected by bloat. (The depth-to-width ratio of a dog's chest represents the amount of room for stomach movement in the abdomen, behind the ribcage.) Bloat can occur in dogs of any age or breed, although it usually is found in dogs over the age of seven.

It's important to note that not all cases of bloat happen in the same way and bloat occurs as a *combination* of factors. There are several known causes of bloat, including risk factors relating to stress, eating and exercise habits, heredity, behavioral traits, build and disposition. A dog with a first-degree relative that has bloated is considered more at risk for bloat. Male dogs seem to suffer from bloat more often than female dogs. Spaying and neutering does not appear to affect the risk of bloat.

Diet composition is key in avoiding bloat. A dog's mealtime environment should be stress-free and as peaceful as possible. Discuss with your veterinarian the *types* of food your dog should eat, (e.g. dry versus moist, raw meat, fiber, etc.) as well as specific *ingredients* to use or avoid (e.g. protein, fat, acids, carbohydrates, etc.). Every dog is different and should be evaluated individually regarding specific diet needs and his risk of bloat.

Dogs fed only once a day - as opposed to multiple small meals - are said to increase

(Continued page 4)

their risk of bloat. And, dogs that eat too quickly or exercise too vigorously or too soon after a meal might also be more at risk. Discuss with your veterinarian your dog's breed characteristics and predisposition to bloat, as well as how many meals (and what portion size) he should have each day, and the specific recommendations for his exercise regimen.

In addition, some veterinarians believe that there are higher risks of bloat when certain sizes and types of dogs use *elevated* feeding bowls, while others disagree. Ask your veterinarian about this issue and whether or not floor level or elevated feeding bowls are appropriate for your dog.

Prevention is always preferable to treatment. Avoid situations that can create anxiety and allow your dog access to fresh water at all times. Some veterinarians suggest that owners of 'susceptible' dogs keep a product on hand containing simethicone to slow gas, if bloat should occur and to 'buy more time' to get to the clinic. A supplement of acidophilus is said to promote 'friendly' bacteria in canine intestines which prevents the fermentation of carbohydrates that can

cause gas and quickly lead to bloat. Be certain to discuss these options with your veterinarian.

What research is being done?

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKCCHF) is currently studying ways to prevent bloat as well as genetic factors and other related issues.

One of the veterinarians the AKCCHF has worked with is Dr. Leslie Monroe of the University of California at Davis Veterinary School. Dr. Monroe's podcast on bloat is posted as part of the AKC's Genome Barks podcast series. The series provides responsible breeders and pet owners with a close look at the work being done by the foundation.

Many other veterinarian researchers have also conducted comprehensive studies on bloat. Two of them are Dr. Larry Glickman at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Catriona MacPhail of The Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

(Continued page 5)

Know the risks and be prepared

Bloat is a serious, life-threatening emergency that can occur quickly. Talk with your veterinarian in advance about your dog's characteristics and chances of developing bloat -- and what steps you can take to avoid it.

Veterinary costs for treating bloat can add up quickly and having pet insurance can help cover the financial expense. Here at PetPartners, the exclusive provider for the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan, a sampling of some recent bloat claims we've reimbursed have been for \$1,495, \$5,000, \$3,327 and \$1,238. Another bloat claim reimbursement, for \$3,572, included a splenectomy (removal of the spleen). For more information on our other illness benefits and entire range of healthcare plans, call us at 866.725.2747 or visit: www.akcphp.com.

Become knowledgeable about the signs of bloat. If you suspect your dog has bloat, do not attempt home remedies and contact your veterinarian immediately, calling ahead so that the veterinary staff can prepare for your arrival.

Understanding your own dog's risks, prevention, symptoms and the need for prompt treatment can help avoid the risk of death if your dog should suddenly develop bloat.

**NNJGDC
NEWSLETTER**

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President

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Syndication

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NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB

Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club
Minutes from the December 15, 2010
Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00pm by President Jeffrey Ball.

Members in attendance: Jeffrey Ball, Bill Diesing, Ken Bocian, Diane Bocian, Donna Stuermer, Martin Stuermer, Cathy Dlugosz, Rose Ann Tucker, Gay Ann Wayne, Betsy Ball, Mary Fran Cini, David Litke and Jean Snyder.

Guests in attendance: Mickey Rufino.

All business was suspended in order to address the following matters:

1. Club insurance is in need of renewal for 2011. Gay moved to pay the renewal fee. The motion was seconded by Mary Fran and passed.
2. Jeff reported that the Club has been approved by the AKC and now needs to apply to the GDCA for approval. The application fee is \$150.00. Mary Fran made a motion that the NNJGDC submit the application and pay the fee. The motion was seconded by David and passed.
3. NJFDC - Jeff is submitting his application as a breeder. Mary Fran, Cathy and Gay are submitting applications on behalf of rescue. All applications were approved by the members present.
4. Jeff suggested that we have a raffle as a fund raiser. First prize would be \$200, second prize \$100 and third prize \$50. Raffle tickets would cost \$1.00 and would be sold over a 2 month period. The members present voted to go ahead with this fund raiser. Raffle tickets will be mailed to the membership.
5. Cathy suggested that the Club get involved with IGive.com. Various stores will donate a percentage of their sales to the Club. The members voted to have Cathy register the Club with IGive.com. A Calendar Raffle was discussed. Since this is very involved, no decision was made.
6. Diane submitted a list to Jeff of the people who owe dues.

There being no further business, Diane made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Rose Ann and the meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

The next meeting will be at the Merchant House Tavern on January 19, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Snyder
Recording Secretary

NJFDC Legislative Seminar

Dear NJFDC Member Clubs,

As you all know, the NJFDC Officers and Board of Directors have been working on having a NJFDC Legislative Seminar. We asked if there would be sufficient interest in this and the membership clubs have responded "yes". With everyone's support, we are happy to announce that the Legislative Seminar has been confirmed. It will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011. The location will be Rutgers University, School of Management and Labor Relations, 50 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901.

Our goal in this project is to educate the canine world to the importance of the legislative world and help them better understand it. We know that the more people understand about the legislative process, the more important it will be to them. We hope that this will enticed them to become more proactive.

The theme of the seminar will be "Recognizing, Understanding and Protecting Your Rights". This seminar would start with the basics of what a Bill is, how does it come about, who supports and votes on it and how a Bill becomes law on the national, state and local levels. Then we will have a speaker from the AKC speak about current laws and bills that are pending in New Jersey and throughout the country and how they all will affect us. After each of these speakers, we will hold a question and answer period.

We will serve lunch then return for additional speakers. The next speaker will talk about Animal Rights, what their agendas are and what they are doing. This will lead to a discussion about how our members' rights are being threatened. We will then have Political speakers and short question and answers session will follow. Our final speaker will motivate us to get out and protect our rights!

Ideally, every club would purchase tickets and give or sell them to their members to enabling them to attend. Our goal is to have one hundred attendees. This is a simple goal, but we need your assistance. The cost of each ticket will be \$30. An order form has been included along with a return envelope.

Please email Jeffrey Ball at jeffbetsyball@yahoo.com or call him at 201-689-1323 with any questions.

Thank you for your assistance and we hope we can count on your support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

The NJFDC Special Legislative Seminar Committee

Jeffrey Ball

Linda Deutsch

Barbara Wickland

Sue Sullivan

Joan Tabor

AGENDA

NJFDC LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Rutgers University, School of Management and Labor Relations,
50 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901.

“Recognizing, Understanding and Protecting your Rights”.

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|--------------------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. | Registration, Continental breakfast |
| 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Priscilla Gabosch – Welcome
Jeffrey Ball – Introductions and summary of the day. |
| 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. | Pete Guzzo , Registered New Jersey Lobbyist - The Bill
Will explain the basic level of what a Bill is, how it comes about, who supports and votes on Bills and how it becomes law on a national, state and local level. |
| 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. | Question and answer time |
| 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Sheila Goffe , Direction of AKC Government Relations
Will speak about current laws and bills that are pending in New Jersey and throughout the country and how they all will affect us. Ms. Goffe will also speak about what AKC is doing to address issues and how you can help. |
| 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. | Question and answer time |
| 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. | Lunch, a few brief speakers |
| 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. | Lt. Col. Dennis Foster
Director of the Master of Foxhounds Association and
Foundation
Will speak on Animal Rights Extremist.
Who are they and what type of threat are they. |
| 1:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Question and answer time |
| 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Political speakers |
| 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. | Barbara Haywood , My Dog Votes
Motivational Speaker
Will speak on getting out and protecting our rights,
having your voice heard! |
| 3:15 p.m. to 3:25 p.m. | Jeffrey Ball - Closing remarks |

TICKET ORDER FORM

NJFDC LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Rutgers University, School of Management and Labor Relations,
50 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901.

YES, I/We would like to attend the NJFDC Legislative Seminar. Enclosed you will find a check for thirty dollars \$30.00 per ticket made out to **NJFDC**. A return envelope has been enclosed for your conveyance. If for any reason you do not have the envelope, please mail check to Jeffrey Ball, NJFDC Legislative Seminar, 11 Pershing Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450. Tickets will not be mailed to you. A list of registered attendees/groups will be at the door the day of the event. If you would like a confirmation sent to you via email or telephone, please check the box below and supply necessary information.

Name/Group _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Number of Tickets _____

Yes, I would like a receipt.

Email Address _____ Telephone
Number _____

I/We cannot attend the seminar, but would like to support this event. Enclosed you will find a donation to NJFDC to help with the cost of the event and future events such as this.

Donation on behalf of _____

DATES to REMEMBER

Membership meeting

January 19, 2011

7:30 p.m.

Merchant House Tavern
4 Little Falls Road
Fairfield, New Jersey

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

NNJGDC
11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

FIRST CLASS MAIL