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Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2006 10:01 AM
To: 'MAGDRL'
Cc: 'Someswaran, Lakshme'
Subject: DOE Topic #30: Bloat all-in-one

Hi All,

I've shared a lot of information in private emails, so I thought I'd share these nuggets with all as DOE Topic #30: Bloat all-in-one.

Interesting to note that all my Danes are rawfed except Merlot -- the one that bloated. I always tell folks that anecdotal evidence shows the chance of food-triggered bloat in rawfed dogs drops to a mere 3%. In retrospect, Merlot had classic symptoms, but they were so subtle and spread-out that it never occurred to me that it was bloat. Suffice to say, this is something we Dane owners should be watchful for, but you may miss the signs even if you constantly interact with your Dane.

I mentioned earlier that I gave Merlot liquid simethicone, but let me put the information all in one email. I can't stress enough that this will **** not **** prevent bloat, but it may buy you time. Liquid Simethicone is available through compounding pharmacists (link: http://www.iacprx.org/site/PageServer?pagename=home_page), The benefit of using liquid is you can get a higher dose into a Dane much faster. For example, 1.5cc of liquid Simethicone = 10 phazyme gelcaps, plus it takes time to dissolve and time is critical with bloat.

Also, someone asked me to ask the vet if they ever say a stomach un-flip on its own. His answer is if it's just bloat (gas build-up), a dog can be decompressed or medicated so that the gas escapes. However he said it's likely to recur.

The stage after unresolved bloat is torsion (stomach flip), and that's the killer. The vet said he's NEVER seen a stomach un-torse in a living dog. Interestingly, he said most people think that dry retching is a sign of bloat, but in his experience it's usually a indicator of torsion. The restlessness and pacing are signs of bloat because the dog has so much gas they can't get comfortable. He said based on his experience, when an owner says the dog has heaved, that's when knows to expect a torse.

Realize that as soon as the torsion starts, that twist presses on a major artery and blood flow to the heart is diminished. That's why it's an urgent, life-threatening emergency, why once they torse, they go downhill very quickly. They go off their feet within a short time (I've heard 20 minutes) so its critical that you get your Dane into your vehicle while it's still mobile. If it's any indication, if you call our local emergency vet to let them know you're coming with a bloat case, they meet you in the parking lot with a stretcher. They know how quickly dogs go from bloat to torsion, then go off their feet.

So after living through this, my recommendations follow:

First line of defense: RIGHT NOW find out where the nearest 24-hour veterinary emergency center is near you. If you have a cell phone, program in the number in case you need it while you're on the road. Then either buy liquid simethicone (best) or other anti-gas meds and always keep them on hand.

Second line of defense: If you even **** think **** your Dane is in bloat.... give 1.5cc. liquid Simethicone or antigas meds, I also 'burp' my Danes afterwards to see if I can get them to belch -- a wonderful sound!

Third line of defense: If the dog does not evacuate gas in **5 minutes**, or if it **dry heaves**, you start racing the clock. Immediately get it into your vehicle and immediately get to your nearest emergency vet center. If possible, call them from your cell phone so they can be prepared.

There's a great page that goes into additional details on how to react in case of bloat here:
<http://ladyr.danebytes.com/BLOAT-SIMETHICONE.htm>

As always, thanks for educating yourself to benefit your Dane and other dog owners!

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"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings

