



BLOAT & STOMACH TORSION

The Weimaraner is a deep-chested dog which makes them a breed which is high on the list of dogs affected by Bloat and Stomach Torsion. You may never see this problem in your dog but we want you to be aware of the symptoms and necessary care.

Bloat/Torsion is a problem that can manifest in all ages of Weimaraners. The majority of cases are in older dogs whose body functions may have slowed down. However, it is occasionally seen in younger dogs. Whenever it does appear, it is to be considered **AN EMERGENCY SITUATION**. Bloat occurs when there is gas production in the stomach and that gas buildup is unable to be expelled via belching or vomiting or passed through the intestines. This gas buildup can cause the stomach to rotate or flip and thereby twists the esophagus and small intestine closed so there is no passage of stomach contents or gas in or out of the stomach. This rotation or Torsion also cuts off the blood supply to the stomach. The spleen

may also be twisted and tissue becomes starved for oxygen and dies. Symptoms of bloat are as follows:

- 🐾 A bloated look to the chest area of the dog.
- 🐾 The dog is uncomfortable, pacing, gagging, salivating, whining, etc.
- 🐾 The dog may attempt to vomit or pass stool repeatedly.
- 🐾 The dog is very restless. Gums may be pale.

The dog should be taken to a veterinarian **IMMEDIATELY** and an x-ray should be requested to determine the position of the stomach. If the stomach has not yet twisted, a tube may be able to be inserted into the dog's stomach to relieve the gas. If there is a torsion, then immediate surgery is required to save the dog's life. During surgery, the vet may tack the stomach to the abdominal wall to make sure it does not flip again. Discuss this with your vet before surgery. Purdue University conducted a study to determine the cause of bloat, but was unable to come up with a cause or prevention.

The following guidelines may help in preventing bloat/torsion:

- 🐾 Feed twice a day.
- 🐾 Use a quality food with a meat base (first ingredient on bag). We prefer a rice base rather than corn or wheat.
- 🐾 Vigorous exercise should be avoided one hour before and two hours after meals.
- 🐾 Water should be available at all times and should be limited immediately after feeding, stress, or vigorous exercise, or if your dog appears to over consume.
- 🐾 Animals who stress should be watched carefully while under stressful conditions when feeding and watering. Try to keep them from becoming stressful.
- 🐾 Weimaraners, having excellent noses, sometimes get into dog food containers or trash cans. Watch carefully after these episodes. Chewing up the dog bed and eating large pieces of fabric or anything that may lodge in the stomach could cause problems. Rawhide should be avoided for large dogs. Do not give an old dog a big knuckle bone to chew or a food that they are not used to that they might have a problem digesting.
- 🐾 Dogs should be supervised when chewing anything to make sure they are not eating large chunks of the item.
- 🐾 Older dog's digestion seems to slow down. Do not change their food or exercise activity drastically.

WHEN YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR WEIMARANER