

Minimally Invasive Propylactic Gastropexy in Dogs

- Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV, commonly referred to as “Bloat”) is a rapidly life-threatening disease characterized by gas and/or fluid and food distension of the stomach, followed by a severe rotation (often 180-360 degrees) on its axis. The pressure from the distended stomach cuts off the blood supply to the pet’s hind end, and animals can die within hours if not treated.
- Giant Breeds (such as Great Danes and Rottweilers) are at highest risk, with other large breed, deep-chested dogs (such as German Shepherds and Labrador Retrievers) are at highest risk, but the problem can occur in medium to even small breeds of dogs.
- Dogs having had an episode of dilation without volvulus (true bloat) are at extremely high risk for GDV, as are dogs with a family member who has had a GDV; risk increases with age.
- Numerous techniques regarding feeding and activity have been purported to increase or decrease the risk of GDV, but only a gastropexy (surgically attaching the stomach to the body wall to prevent it from twisting) has proven effective in virtually eliminating the risk of GDV.
- A gastropexy can be performed via open surgery or in less-invasive fashion via endoscopic or laparoscopic assistance.
- Endoscopy allows the stomach to be dilated and held against the right lateral body wall
- Entire surgery can be done through a 4cm paracostal (just behind the last rib) incision (the length of the gastropexy itself)
- Increased comfort
- Decreased morbidity (complications)
- Swifter recovery
- Permanent adhesion results in lifelong reduction in risk of life-threatening GDV.
- Can be done as early as 6 months old.
- Please schedule an appointment with our board-certified surgeon, Dr. Jeff Christiansen, to discuss prophylactic gastropexy to improve your patients’ length and quality of life.



For more information on Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus, see <https://www.acvs.org/small-animal/gastric-dilatation-volvulus>