

Quick Tips – Surgery

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Prophylactic Gastropexy

Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) requires expensive emergency treatment and surgery, and is fatal in 5-20% of affected dogs. Breeds at highest risk for GDV include: Great Dane, Weimaraner, St. Bernard, Gordon Setter, Irish Setter, Standard Poodle, Irish Wolfhound, German Shepherd, and Doberman Pinscher. **A familial tendency has been identified;** individual dogs with a first-degree relative affected by GDV have substantially increased risk. The cause of GDV is poorly understood, but many affected dogs have a history of previous gastric dilatation or other gastrointestinal motility problems. Following GDV, gastropexy effectively prevents recurrent dilatation and/or volvulus in ~95% of dogs. **In a recent study of prophylactic gastropexy in large-breed dogs with a history of recurrent dilatation or other GI motility disease, 80% showed improvement of signs and none developed GDV during 1 year of follow-up.** Several studies have shown no adverse effects from prophylactic gastropexy in otherwise healthy adult dogs. **Prophylactic gastropexy, using either an incisional or belt-loop technique, should be strongly considered in dogs with a history of gastric dilatation, or in those with a first-degree relative affected by GDV.** If combined with OVH, it is preferable to delay the procedure until the dog is near its expected adult size, though still before the first estrus. In dogs that do not otherwise require abdominal surgery, a minimally invasive technique - laparoscopic-assisted gastropexy – is an attractive option.

I hope you found this information helpful,



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