During this period, the dog may recover if the Vet bK

**BLOAT FRIDGE CHART**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is / can be happening</th>
<th>What the Dog does</th>
<th>What you should do</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRESS &amp; VACATION</strong></td>
<td>Stomach function is normal</td>
<td>Dog behaves as usual</td>
<td>Keep the dog quiet. Do not leave the dog alone. Give Antacid if your Vet agrees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gas accumulates in the stomach but the stomach does not empty as it should.</td>
<td>Seems slightly uncomfortable.</td>
<td>Be aware of Phase I symptoms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHASE I GDV</strong></td>
<td>Stomach starts to dilate. (Gastric Dilatation)</td>
<td>Anxious, restless, pacing. Trying to vomit - may bring up stiff white foam but no food/ Salivating; Abdomen may be swollen.</td>
<td>During this period the dog may recover without going on to develop Gastric Volvulus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stomach twists. (Gastric Volvulus)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHASE II GDV</strong></td>
<td>Blood supply to part of the stomach is cut off. Stomach tissue is damaged. Portal vein, vena cava and splenic vein become compressed and twisted. Spleen becomes engorges. Shock begins to develop.</td>
<td>Very restless; whining &amp; panting. Salivating copiously. Tries to vomit every 2-3 minutes. Stands with legs apart &amp; head hanging down. Abdomen swollen &amp; sounds hollow if tapped. Gums dark Red. Heart rate 80-100 beats per minute. Temperature raised to approx. 40 degrees Celsius.</td>
<td>Get someone to tell your Vet that you are on your way and why. Take the dog to the Vet as quickly as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>During this period, the dog may recover if the Vet releases the pressure with the stomach tube.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHASE III GSV</strong></td>
<td>Spleen and stomach tissue become Necrotic. Shock is now very severe. Heart Failure develops. Shock is not irreversible. Death.</td>
<td>Unable to stand or stands shakily with legs apart. Abdomen very swollen. Breathing Shallow. Gums White or Blue. Heart rate over 100 beats per minute. Pulse very weak. Temperature drops to approx. 36 degrees Celsius.</td>
<td>Death is imminent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>As well as doing everything above the Vet will need to remove part of the Stomach and the spleen. They will also need to use powerful drugs to counteract shock. It is no longer possible to save the dogs life.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emergency Vet Address: ____________________________

Emergency Vet Phone: ____________________________

Regular Vet Phone: ____________________________

Regular Vet Hours: ____________________________
Preventing Bloat

There have been many Bloat studies over the decades, most of which contradict one another or the way in which the study was conducted has been considered inaccurate or the test groups too small.

Unfortunately the truth of the matter is that we do not know what causes Bloat and if genetic we do not understand the mode of inheritance. Many Great Dane Owners, Breeders & Vets will have their own thoughts, however unfortunately there are simply no proven causes or even preventatives.

Here are the common preventatives many Great Dane owners go by:

1. Minimise Stress including emotional stress as well as environment stress. Some Great Danes do not handle the heat well and Australian Summers can be too much for Danes kept outdoors.

   It is not unusual to hear about Great Danes Bloating in boarding kennels, this is primarily where the stress link is believed to come from. It is recommended you get your Dane used to boarding facilities from an early age in case you need to use one – research goes a long way as not all boarding kennels are the same quality. Having a Dane that won’t leave your side and stresses when you’re not there is not a positive thing for the dog’s emotional wellbeing.

   If your Great Dane is nervous, anxious, aggressive or unbalanced please speak to a qualified Behaviourist so this stress can be reduced. The use of products for anxiety may include Thundershirts, PetArk Calm, low protein high quality diets as well as a behavioural modification program from a professional Behaviourist.

2. Minimise Exercise at least half an hour before and after meals. A casual walk after meals can in-fact help in digestion, however going for Run should be avoided.

3. Keep the gut healthy with the use of high quality foods and pre & pro-biotics. If your dog has poor digestion, look into digestive enzymes and other products to help create a better digestive system.

4. Keep the dog in-shape. A Great Dane should have good muscle tone, be lean and never overweight. There is some school of thought that the strength of the muscles can prevent bloat and torsion.

5. Talk with your Breeder. Have any of their dogs bloat, if so do they believe there were any associated reasons surrounding it?

Please note: The most well loved and managed Great Danes still bloat. These preventatives are only theories. The best thing a Great Dane owner can do is know the signs of Bloat and get your dog to a Vet immediately.
The Acupuncture Bloat Point! IT SIMPLY WORKS

C.A. Krowzack, DVM

The acupressure point is on the hind leg. If you start at the hock, on the front of the leg (anterior) you can feel the tibia.

Move your hand up the leg along the tibia’s sharp crest; what in humans would be called the shin. As your hand approaches the stifle, or the “knee” the crest becomes very pronounced and then curls around to the outside (laterally).

Just inside this curve is a depression. The acupressure point is in this depression. An acupuncturist might insert a needle into this spot, or inject a liquid, but massaging also stimulates the point.

The gastrointestinal tract starts to contract and move (peristalsis) and expels the built up gas before torsion can occur. If torsion has occurred, massaging the spot will not help.

Do not use this procedure instead of veterinary treatment, but begun early, or on the way for veterinary treatment, can save your hound’s life!

Dr Krowzack demonstrating point
Helping Calm Nerves

Do you have a Great Dane that is a bit nervy/highly strung and could do with some help to relax?

There are a number of products available to our canine buddies that can help de-stress them and take the edge off.

Many of these products are ‘alternative/complimentary’ and therefore your Vet may not be well versed in them, however it is important you speak to your Vet before giving supplements to your dog.

A Vet check could bring to light a medical problem that could be contributing to the problem, your Vet may also like to discuss the possibility of drug / supplement interactions.

Supplements are not a miracle cure, they are typically recommended to assist dogs who are participating in a behavioural modification program / training. Not all supplements work for all dogs and sometimes it’s a case of trial and error.

If your dog’s quality of life is being hampered by its nerves/emotions please seek the help of a qualified Behaviourist. On our downloads page we have a list of Behaviourists we can recommend.

It is important to understand that a dog like any animal is a product of its genes; the environment however can turn on and off genes so if something traumatic (such as a dog fight, heavy discipline, abuse etc.) occurs in your dog’s life this can affect the dogs personally going forward.

Some dogs are born with nervy temperaments, although they may never be cured, they may be assisted with supplementation and behavioural programs.

Some dogs only experience short term stress and anxiety such as car travel, going for walks etc.

Why is it important to help nervy dogs?

- A nervy dog can become a fear bitter if the right situation presents.
- You may not be able to do all the fun things you wanted to do with your dog because they emotionally cannot cope with those activities.
- It’s not a nice way for a dog to live, and very rarely does it get better on its own.
- Helping a nervy dog to become more stable will make them more enjoyable to live with which means you have a stronger bond with your dog.
PetArk Calm

Make a difference to your dog or cat’s day by reducing their level of stress naturally. PetArk Calm assists in the maintenance of normal muscle and nerve function and contains a range of nutrients that have a role in assisting the transmission of nerve impulses.

This product contains: Natural Liver Flavouring; Magnesium Phosphate; L-Tryptophan; Passion Flower; Hops; Chamomile; Vitamin B6; Vitamin B3; Vitamin B1; Vitamin B2; Vitamin B12.

Approx $35.00 for 125 grams.

Natural Animal Solutions Calm

Calm is a blend of nervine herbs that may help relieve nervous tension, stress and mild anxiety. Used daily, Calm will assist with your pets general well being. A gentle alcohol-free formula that is palatable for pets and easy on the stomach, making it safe for dogs and cats.

Approx $30.00 for 110 grams.

D.A.P

Use to modify behaviour in dogs. Has a calming effect by releasing dog pheromones into the air via a 240v plug in diffuser. Lasts for approximately 30 days if left on 24 hours a day.

Independent observations from a Behaviourist has suggested that DAP may not be a suitable solution if the dog did not have a good start to life i.e. when it was still feeding from its Mother getting the natural pheromones.

Approx $80.00 for diffuser and D.A.P. Refills are approx. $40.00.
Vetalogica Canine Tranquil Calm formula

Dogs are often subject to distressing situations such as thunderstorms, being frightened of strangers, aggression or even being left alone. Canine Tranquil Formula contains Tryptophan and essential B group vitamins to help maintain normal emotional balance in dogs.

Approx $25.00 for 120 chews.

Paw Multi + Tryptophan Multivit

Tasty kangaroo based chews with B group vitamins to maintain a healthy nervous function and tryptophan, an essential amino acid for balanced health.

Approx $24.00 for 300 grams.

Value Plus Calming Paste

Value Plus 4 calming paste is an aid for anxiety, nervousness, distraction and stress in horses and dogs.

Each 30ml contains: L-tryptophan 3,000mg, Thiamine 600mg, Riboflavin 500mg, Niacin 500mg, Pyridoxine 300mg, Extract of matricaria recutita (chamomile) 4,500mg.

Approx $20.00 for 30 mls.
Adaptil Pheromone Collar

Adaptil, formally known as DAP, is a synthetic copy of the natural canine appeasing pheromone proven to help support dogs in a range of stressful situations.

Approx $45.00 for 1 collar that lasts approx 30 days.

Skullcap & Valerian

These supplements are often used for Separation Anxiety:

Valerian - Valerian can be dosed at 4mg/lb for use with anxiety problems in the powder form, or 1/4 human dose for small dogs, 1/2 dose for medium, and full dose for large dogs when using the liquid tincture. Beware - Valerian WILL "wire up" some dogs, and cause them to become more anxious/energetic. Best results are achieved when you'll be absent for shorter periods, and when the Valerian is given 30-45 minutes before departure.

Skullcap - Skullcap often works well with dogs who have a poor reaction to Valerian. The same basic dosage protocol applies.

L-Theanine

L-theanine is a free-form amino acid, and is recommended for use in treating anxiety in humans, as well. It is not widely available in Australia, your health food store may be able to order it or you'll need to Google in Australia.

Dosage is 100mg for a 50lb dog, once per day, scaled up/down from there.
Melatonin

Melatonin has been found to be helpful when used with dogs who have "thunder-phobia," other noise-related reactions and other stressful situations. Melatonin has been used effectively to reduce seizures in dogs that seize between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM. Quite a few members of our Canine Epilepsy community have also discovered that it seems to lessen the frequency and/or severity of seizures at other times of the day.

Dosages of 3mg can be used for dogs up to 50lbs, and increased proportionally from there. When purchasing melatonin, look for a regular variety as opposed to a "time release" - it seems to be more effective for canine use. Melatonin can also be useful for thunderstorm anxiety, and is best given 45-60 minutes before departure.

Approx $20.00 for 90 tablets.

Clomicalm – Vet only medication

CLOMICALM is used to treat behavioural problems in dogs and cats. CLOMICALM is a combination of a tricyclic antidepressant and a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

In dogs, CLOMICALM is used to treat anxiety disorders such as destructiveness, excessive vocalisation and loss of toilet control associated with separation anxiety.

In dogs, CLOMICALM is used to treat stereotypic behaviours (obsessive-compulsive disorders), such as tail chasing and over-grooming.

CLOMICALM decreases anxiety in animals by increasing the level of certain chemicals in the brain. It must be used in conjunction with behavioural training.

Once an animal is less anxious, they can undergo training to improve behavioural problems.

CLOMICALM is not indicated to treat aggression in dogs.
Thundershirt

Are you looking for a solution to your dog’s anxiety issues? Whether the problem is thunderstorms, fireworks, travel, shyness, separation anxiety or even problem barking, Thundershirt’s patent-pending design applies a gentle, constant pressure that has a dramatic calming effect for most dogs.

Based on surveys completed by over two thousand customers, over 80% of dogs show significant improvement in symptoms when using Thundershirt. Thundershirt is already helping tens of thousands of dogs around the world, and is recommended by thousands of veterinarians and dog trainers.

Available from some large pet shops and online stores.  
Approx $50.00.

Storm Defender Cape

Research shows that dogs sense the static charge build up before a thunderstorm. This same charge, if it gets big enough, produces lightning. Knowing that, it makes sense for dogs to be afraid and seek shelter. It is an "early warning" system for lightning.

When properly used, the Storm Defender cape will reduce the dog’s anxiety. The cape has a special metallic lining that discharges a dog’s fur and shields him from the static charge buildup reducing his sensitivity to the charge. The dog gets relief, and after a few storms begins to learn that the secondary triggers like rain, wind, thunder, barometric pressure and smells are no longer to be feared. With the cape on, the dog feels as though he has found a safe place.  
http://www.stormdefender.com
Approx $60.00.

Through a Dog’s Ear

Music can soothe the savage beast—including your dog! Millions of dog guardians have grappled with behavior problems caused by their dog’s anxiety—from fits of barking when their beagle is left home alone to the nervous whimpering of their dachshund during a thunderstorm. Now, psychoacoustic expert Joshua Leeds joins concert pianist Lisa Spector and veterinary neurologist Dr. Susan Wagner to create Through a Dog’s Ear: Music to Calm Your Canine Companion; the first CD in a new series of music clinically proven to calm canine listeners. In tests conducted in kennels, shelters, clinics, and dog households, Dr. Wagner and team made amazing strides in learning how dogs respond to music. Created to resonate specifically with the canine nervous system, this psychoacoustically designed classical music has been demonstrated to ease stress and reduce canine anxiety. In the research trials, twice as many anxiety behaviors were reduced with this special music as compared to conventional classical selections.  
Approx $30.00.
TOP TIPS for Treating Anxious, Fearful, Stressed & Hyperactive Dogs

1. Fit Thundershirt before exposure to things the dog finds scary for best results.

2. There's no such thing as a magic wand! Use Thundershirt in conjunction with a good behaviour plan for the quickest results. Free plans for common behaviour problems are available at: www.JezRose.co.uk

3. Start with a simple plan in conjunction with Thundershirt for best results: feed the dog its daily food ration or tasty treats each time the thing it is scared of happens. Begin with short exposures, gradually increasing with time, so the scary thing becomes fun and a precursor to tasty food!

4. Use Thundershirt with calming music CDs, chewtoys and a behaviour plan for dogs with particularly bad phobias. Thundershirt will help improve the effectiveness of the plan.

5. Slowly remove the Thundershirt a short while after the dog has calmed, smoothing your hands where the Thundershirt was to maintain a feeling of contact.
Finding a Good Behaviourist / Trainer

Anyone can call themselves one!

When you run into trouble and you don't know how to fix it, don't be ashamed to ask for help!

Even trainers themselves problem-solve with other trainers.

All dogs are different and therefore a “one size fits all” approach is not suitable. You'll need to find a Trainer / Behaviourist skilled in many different types of methods as that way you can find out what your dog responds to best, alternatively if you only like positive training you'll need to ensure the trainer is skilled in those techniques.

Trainers and Behaviourist trained by the National Dog Trainers Federation (NDTF) are educated in all forms of training and therefore should be able to assist you. NDTF is one of only 2 Nationally accredited facilities in Australia.

www.ndtf.net.au You can contact the NDTF and ask for a recommendation in your state.

If the NDTF do not have a trainer in your state you can ask for trainer/behaviourist recommendations from online dog communities such as www.dolforums.com.au.

Beware of businesses promoting themselves as trainers or behaviourists that don't actually have any formal training and are just following a training manual from their Franchise Head Office.

If you like only positive training methods then Delta or the Dog Listener outfits would be groups that you would seek assistance from. www.deltasocietyaustralia.com.au To find a Dog Listener outfit, type 'Dog Listener and (your State)' into Google.
LOVE IS A GREAT Dane!

Behaviourist / Trainer Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on recommendations from clients and other trainers and behaviourists.

**Queensland**

Jane Harper
Dogs on Track
http://www.dogsontrack.com.au

Jenny Golsby
Complete Canine Communication
www.completecaninecommunication.com.au

Dr Garth Jennens (M.Soc.Sci, Ph.D)
PUPi
http://www.pupi.com.au

**Victoria**

Judi Buchan
PRO-K9

Trish and Stuart Harris
Four Paws K9 Training
www.fourpawsk9training.com.au

Julie Kopunovich
InLine K9
www.inlinek9.webs.com

**New South Wales**

Steve Courtney
K9 Pro
Discounted service provided to Great Dane Rescue NSW Dogs.
http://k9pro.com.au

Craig Murray
Premier Dog Training
Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing NSW In-house Boarding Trainer
M: 0408 113 874

**South Australia**

Mark Singer
Adelaide Canine Training
http://www.caninetraining.com.au

**Western Australia**

Dr Garth Jennens (M.Soc.Sci, Ph.D)
PUPi
www.pupi.com.au

**Tasmania**

Aidan Bindoff
Aidan Bindoff Dog Training & Behaviour
http://www.positivepetzine.com

Kathy Kopellis McLeod
Kathy’s Dog Training & Behaviour Consulting
www.kathysdogtraining.com.au

Frances Hammer
Great Dane owner and Rescue Co-ordinator for the Great Dane Club of Victoria
Pet Angle - Accredited Delta Instructor
M: 0412 523 526
Body Condition Scoring

1. Ribs, spine and bony protrusions are easily seen at a distance. These pets have lost muscle mass and there is no observable body fat. Emaciated, bony, and starved in appearance.

2. Ribs, spine and other bones are easily felt. These pets have an obvious waist when viewed from above and an abdominal tuck. Thin, lean or skinny in appearance.

3. Ribs and spine are easily felt but not necessarily seen. There is a waist when viewed from above and the abdomen is raised and not sagging when viewed from the side. Normal, ideal and often muscular in appearance.

4. Ribs and spine are hard to feel or count underneath fat deposits. Waist is distended or often pear-shaped when viewed from above. The abdomen sags when seen from the side. There are typically fat deposits on the hips, base of tail and chest. Overweight, heavy, husky or stout.

5. Large fat deposits over the chest, back, tail base and hindquarters. The abdomen sags prominently and there is no waist when viewed from above. The chest and abdomen often appear distended or swollen. Obese.

With thanks to www.petobesityprevention.com With Permission.