



## FOOD BLOAT

### ABOUT THE DISEASE

As a normal part of digestion, when patients eat a kibbled diet, the food will often expand once mixed with water and digestive liquids. Typically occurring in puppies who are overfed, or gain uncontrolled access to food, the stomach can over-distend causing a **food bloat**.

Symptoms are typically fast to appear, usually after eating too much kibble. Patients will develop abdominal pain, abdominal distension, and will display unsuccessful attempts to vomit.

### OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A physical examination will often suggest the presence of a **food bloat**, but an x-ray (radiograph) can confirm.

Some patients may have a blood pressure checked to assess stability.

### TREATMENT

**Food bloat** can be difficult to treat and often requires waiting for the body to take a natural course of digestion.

Some patients are hospitalized and placed on intravenous (IV) fluids to help combat dehydration while the body shifts a large amount of fluid into the gut to aid in digestion.

Rarely will patients require surgery to remove the kibbled food contents. In patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases, immediate removal of the food may be necessary.

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Feed multiple small meals per day instead of one large meal.
- Pre-moisten kibbled food while patients are young to help reduce in-stomach expansion.
- Prevent uncontrolled access to food by placing it in a sealed plastic container or behind a latched pantry door.