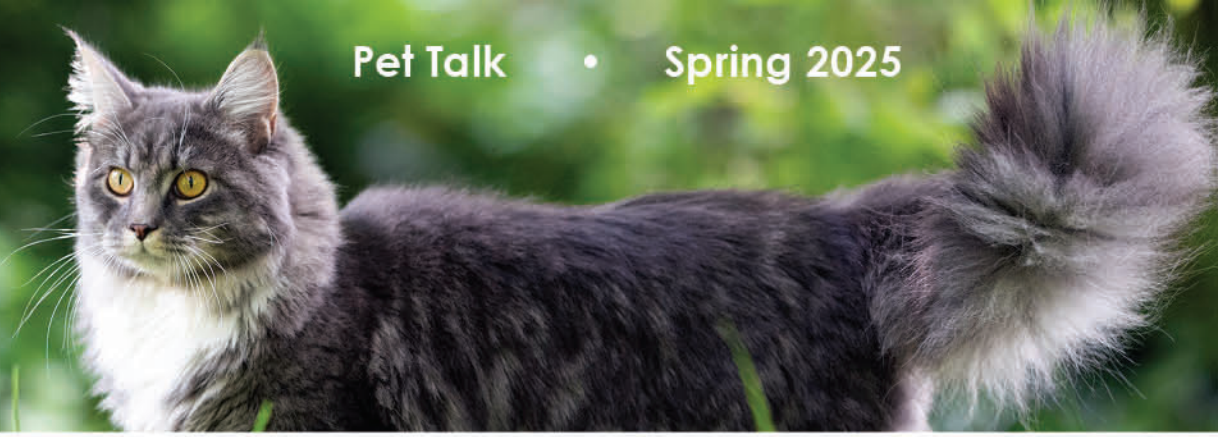


OAK FOREST

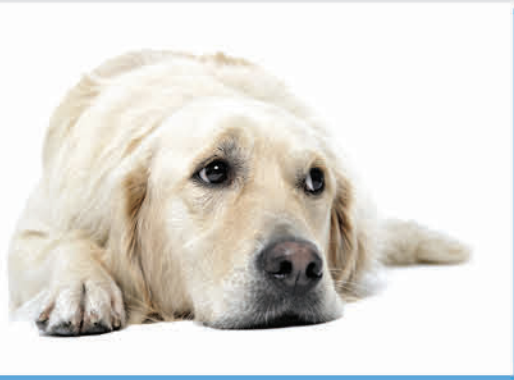
Veterinary Hospital



Digestive Distress

Why Bloat Is a Serious Issue for Dogs

Although humans can overeat and get an uncomfortable “bloating” feeling, bloat affects the canine system more critically. For your dog, it’s a serious medical condition that needs immediate attention!



Bloat happens when a dog’s stomach fills with air and water, usually from eating too fast and swallowing too much air. Some dogs’ stomachs actually twist from this condition, pinching off the blood supply and allowing nothing in or out. The veterinary term for this is gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV)—a life-threatening condition. Although not all dogs with bloat end up with GDV, those that do require emergency surgery.

These signs may come with the intense abdominal pain that indicates bloat:

- 🐾 Swollen stomach that feels hard
- 🐾 Anxiety and restlessness, which can turn to listlessness and fatigue
- 🐾 Rapid, shallow breathing with pale gums and lips
- 🐾 Excessive salivation or drooling
- 🐾 Pacing
- 🐾 Heavy panting
- 🐾 Unproductive belching or vomiting

Bloat and GDV happen most often in large, deep-chested breeds such as Great Danes, Saint Bernards, Mastiffs, Doberman Pinschers and German Shepherds, but it can affect any breed. To help prevent bloat, don’t allow your dog to drink large amounts of water before or after a meal, feed smaller meals per day more frequently rather than one large

meal, and don’t allow your dog to exercise right after eating.

Bloat can lead to GDV rather quickly. If your dog shows any of these symptoms, bring him in immediately or take him to the nearest emergency hospital after hours.

Goose Honks

It’s Allergy Time Again!

(Inhales deeply) Man, I love the smell of spring in the air! The only thing is, sometimes it gives me the sniffles! My mom, Dr. Moore, says that I have seasonal allergies. She says these are caused by tiny microorganisms called allergens (due to yucky things like dust, pollen and molds) that send my immune system into overdrive! Maybe that’s why I can’t stop sneezing in the springtime? Lucky for me, mom gives me a special treat of cheese with a pill called an antihistamine and I’m okay. Some of my dog friends aren’t so lucky; they have more severe symptoms like coughing, wheezing, and severe itching. I think they need to be on prescription allergy medications regularly!

My cat sister isn’t in the clear just because she’s a cat—she is at risk for seasonal allergies as well, although flea allergy dermatitis is more common in cats than reactions to allergens. Good thing mom keeps her on her flea prevention. She gets a little cranky when she’s itching!



Allergies in the Houston area are super common and thankfully can be treated by many different things, including anti-inflammatories, topicals and a change in nutrition! I gotta tell my mom that I saw my dog brother Knox itching ... he needs to be checked out for these allergen things!

Gotta scratch! I mean, gotta blast!

Goose Moore

Kennel Cough

Is Your Dog Protected Against Bordetella?

Bordetella bronchiseptica, commonly called “kennel cough,” is a highly contagious bacterium that causes respiratory disease in dogs. Dogs who frequent areas where they encounter other dogs, such as boarding facilities, groomers or dog parks, are more likely to come into contact with the bacterium. However, dogs can be infected with this airborne pathogen in their own yards simply by being downwind of an infected animal.



The symptoms of kennel cough are usually obvious: a dry, hacking cough during which the dog will hang his head and may make choking or retching sounds. Infected dogs may also have a fever or conjunctivitis, as well as a clear nasal discharge.

We may use antibiotics or cough suppressants to treat an infected dog. Bordetella vaccines can lessen the severity of the disease or prevent infection altogether. The vaccine, along with not exposing your dog to other dogs, is the best way to prevent bordetella infection.

If your canine companion has a cough or has been exposed to the disease, isolate him from other dogs and bring him in for an exam. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about bordetella and to discuss prevention measures.

Poop Scoop

What Your Dog’s Stool Can Tell You

What your dog leaves behind when he “does his business” may not be something you want to investigate, but it can tell you a lot about their overall health. The content, color, shape and size of your dog’s stool are things you should take note of so you can let us know if there is anything out of the norm.

Color: Your dog’s normal stool should be chocolate brown. Black, tarry stool can indicate bleeding in the intestinal tract; yellow stool can point to liver issues; orange can indicate pancreatitis; and greenish feces may point to gall bladder issues. A white or gray stool can mean a problem with your dog’s liver, gallbladder or pancreas.

Consistency: Normal stool is soft but not runny. Small, hard pellets can indicate dehydration, while runny or very soft stool likely means intestinal upset.

Content: Note anything unusual in your dog’s stool. White, rice-like flecks are a sign of worms, while mucous can indicate inflammation of the large intestine. If stool contains gravel, sand, excessive grass or other foreign objects, your dog is eating something they shouldn’t!

Take note also if your pup is having more frequent or less frequent bowel movements. Straining to poop can mean a bowel obstruction and is particularly important to watch for. Some changes in stool indicate serious issues, while others are temporary and less worrisome. It’s best not to guess! Call us whenever you see signs of blood or any changes in color, consistency or content that persist more than a day or two.



Why Is My Cat Vomiting?

Know When to Be Concerned

It's natural to be worried when your kitty is vomiting, however this is common behavior for cats. It can be caused by a variety of issues, but we can usually attribute vomiting to stomach upset or hairballs.

Frequently, feline regurgitation is caused from expelling a hairball—a wad of undigested hair swallowed during grooming. Yucky as it is, this is not usually cause for concern. If your cat seems to be expelling hairballs frequently, brush them more often so they have less loose hair to ingest. We can also recommend safe hairball remedies.

Cats also vomit due to stomach upset, usually from eating too quickly or eating something they shouldn't. A change in diet is one culprit, which is why we suggest changing foods gradually by mixing the new with the old food slowly in increasing ratios. Of greater concern is vomiting caused after your kitty ingests a toxic substance such as a poisonous plant, a human food or medication, or spoiled cat food.

Some life-threatening illnesses present with vomiting also. If your cat is vomiting more often than once per week or if vomiting is accompanied with weakness, decreased appetite, not drinking, changes in urination, diarrhea, or blood in the vomit, let us know right away. Severe infections can cause vomiting, including urinary tract or kidney infections. In addition, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, cancer, and parasites can cause vomiting.

For prolonged bouts of vomiting, we need to see your cat for an exam. Vomiting more than once per day can lead to dehydration and we may need to administer fluids. Vomit that is red, pink, black or brown may indicate internal bleeding, so it may be helpful to collect a sample to bring in with your kitty. If you aren't sure whether your cat's vomiting is normal, we are always here to answer your questions.



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