

BLOAT

BLOAT IS ONE OF THE VERY ANNOYING CASES PRESENTED TO PRACTICING VETS.

IN VERY NEW CASES, GAS FILLED BUT NOT TORSION THEN THIS PROBLEM CAN BE CONTROLLED VERY NICELY WITH TWO DRUGS AND A GOOD WALKING. USE GAS-X PURCHASED IN ANY PHARMACY AND REGLAN (METOCLOPRAMIDE) TOGETHER ORALLY AND WALK THIS DOG TILL IT BELCHES. MAY HAVE TO STAND AND SHAKE THE DOG BY ITS FRONT LEGS TILL IT BELCHES. RETAIN THE DOG ON REGLAN AND OBSERVE FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS. RELEASE DOG TO OWNERS KEEP ON REGLAN FOR AT LEAST 2 WEEKS. FEEDING REGIMEN CHANGE HAS BEEN SUGGESTED. SHOULD STOP THE PROBLEM. REGLAN PREVENTS REOCCURRENCE.

FOR THOSE DOGS ALREADY TORSION, AN X-RAY TO CONFIRM AND THEN IMMEDIATE SURGERY. AS I WAS TAUGHT BY DR LEIGHTON OF UCD.

1. PLACE IV CATHETERS (2 IF NECESSARY) AS SHOCK IS IMMINENT.
 2. GAS ONLY ANESTHESIA AS SHOCK IS A MAJOR PROBLEM.
 3. LAPAROTOMY IMMEDIATELY OR SOONER. DE-TORSE THE STOMACH CHECK FOR CLOTS IN SPLENIC VESSELS TO THE GREATER CURVATURE OF THE STOMACH AND REMOVE SPLEEN IF NECESSARY.
 4. GASTROTOMY, AND EMPTY CONTENTS OF THE STOMACH, GAS AND MUCOUS.
 5. CHECK INTEGRITY OF THE GREATER CURVATURE OF THE STOMACH AND REMOVE ANY AREAS LOOKING NECROTIC.
 6. PERFORM PYLOROMYOTOMY. (LEAVING THE MUCOSA INTACT) BUT CUTTING THE MUSCLE WHICH HAS UNDERGONE MAJOR CHANGES.
 7. CLOSE ALL INCISIONS AND CONTINUE WITH LIFE SUPPORT, FLUIDS AND ANTIBIOTICS.
- MAINTAIN ON REGLAN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. WORKS WELL.

SEVERAL BREEDS SEEM TO BE PREDISPOSED.
GORDON SETTERS.

IRISH SETTERS

ST. BERNARD

BOXERS

SHEPHERDS

OCCASIONAL OTHER BREEDS.

MY PERSONAL SUSPICION IS THAT BLOAT IS CAUSED BY SOME FORM OF IRRITANT TO THE MACROPHAGES OF THE SPLEEN WHICH IN TURN PRODUCE

A CYTOKINE THAT CAUSES THE PARIETAL CELLS OF THE STOMACH TO BEGIN PRODUCING GAS AND MUCOUS. ALSO CAUSING A PHYSICAL CHANGE

TO THE MUSCLE OF THE PYLORUS, SHUTTING OFF EGRESS OF THE GAS AND MUCOUS FROM THE STOMACH TO THE INTESTINES.

WHEN THE

STOMACH FILLS WITH GAS AND IS UNDER TENSION THEN TORSION OCCURS. ONCE THIS HAPPENS THEN SHOCK IS THE NEXT PHENOMENON. IF

GIVEN TIME THE CLOTS IN THE SPLENIC VESSELS CAUSE A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE TISSUES AND THE VESSELS OF THE GREATER CURVATURE AND IN

RARE CASES ALLOWS FOR RUPTURE AND PERITONITIS. IF NOT CAUGHT AND CORRECTED THEN DEATH IS IMMINENT.

by Alson Sears, DVM

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