

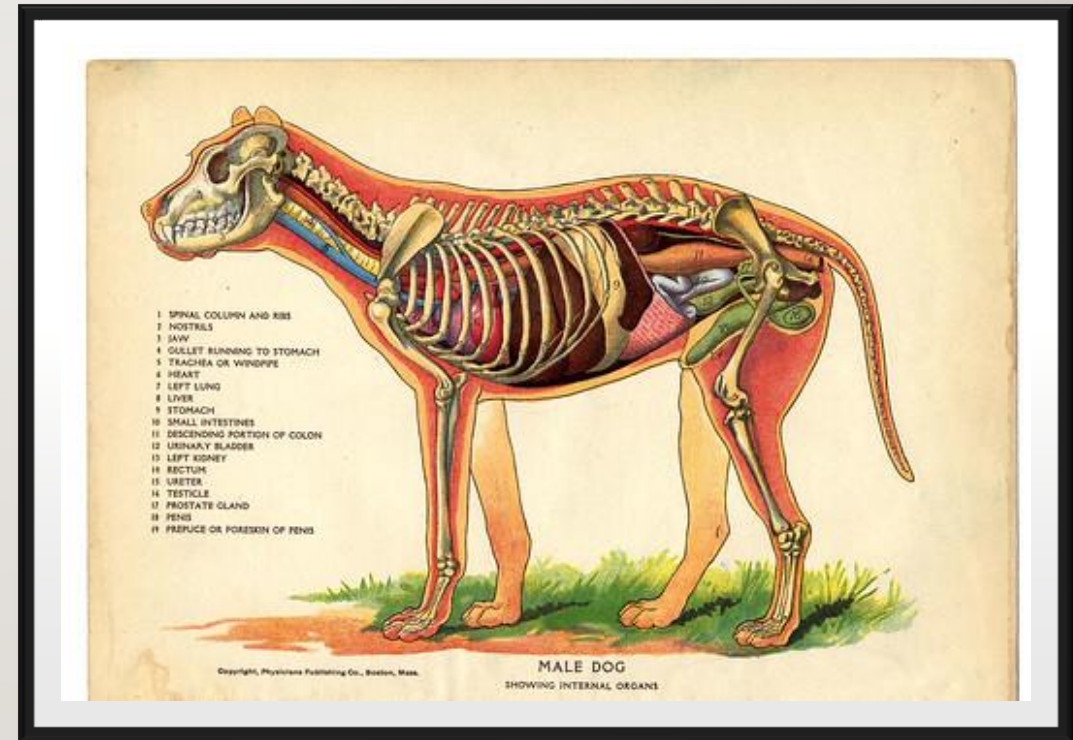


WHAT IS GASTRIC DILATION/VOLVULUS?

A QUICK GUIDE BY DANA SCOZZAFAVA DVM

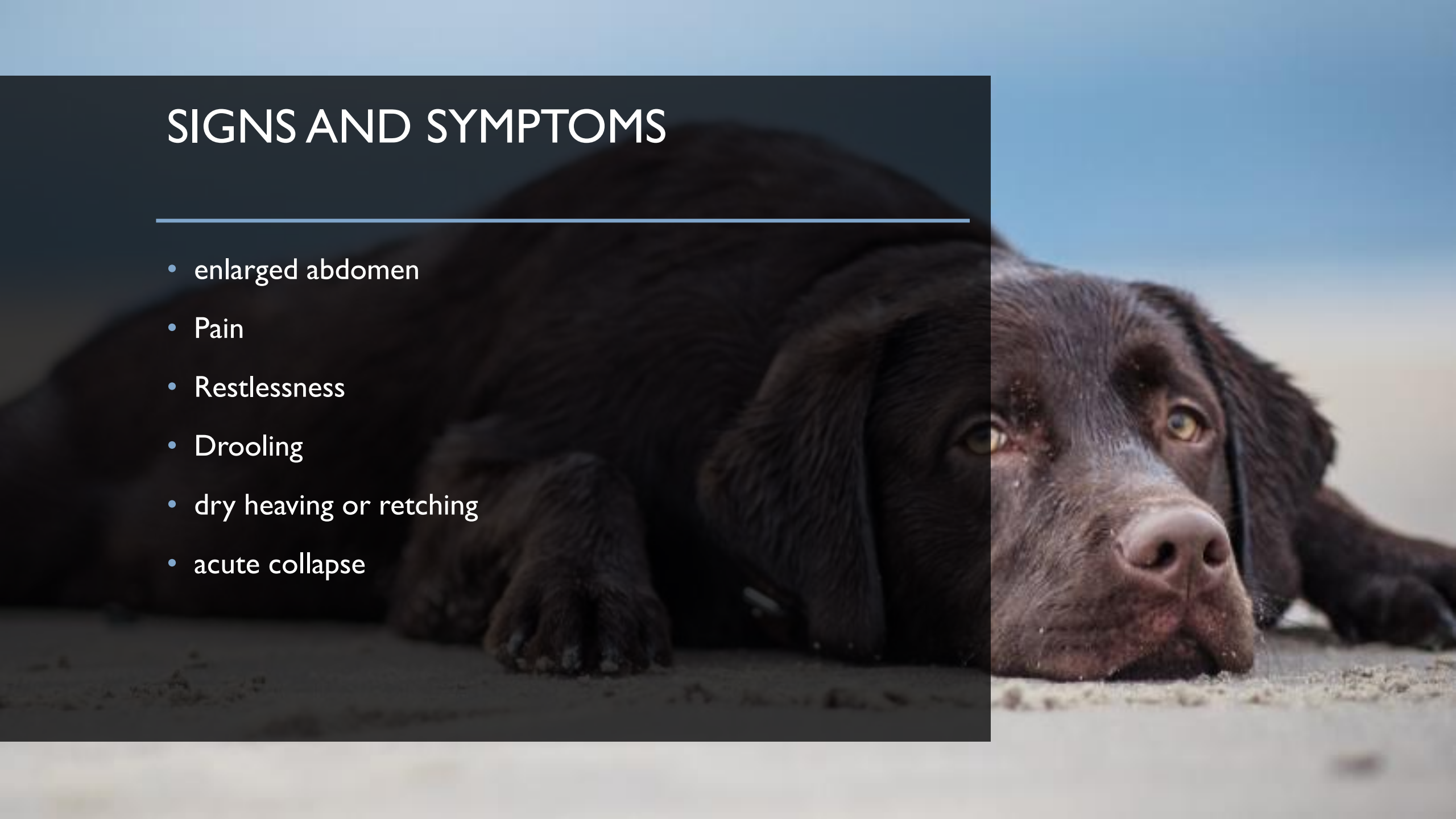
GASTRIC DILATION/VOLVULUS (GDV)

- happens when the stomach distends with air (dilation) and rotates (volvulus).
- Rotation limits blood supply to surrounding organs and the stomach, which leads to organ damage, stomach perforation, and irregular heart beats
- Ultimately leading to shock and death



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- enlarged abdomen
- Pain
- Restlessness
- Drooling
- dry heaving or retching
- acute collapse



WHO IS AT RISK?

Large breed dogs including standard poodles

Dogs with high anxiety, those that are fearful, or stressed

Fast eaters

Dogs who are fed only once per day

Eating large meals

Eating from elevated dog bowls

dogs that have a first-degree relative with GDV

middle to older aged dogs

HELPFUL PREVENTION TIPS!

- feed your dog at least twice or three meals a day to decrease the volume of food consumed at one time.
- slow them down with a special slow down bowl
- or put some of the food in a Kong and in the bowl, so they need to move the food out of the Kong to get the full meal
- do not use a raised food bowl
- stay in communication with your breeder or friends that have a dog related to your dog and report to each other if GDV is experienced among the breed line.
- gastropexy is a surgical procedure to help prevent GDV. Gastropexy involves suturing the stomach to the abdominal wall to prevent the stomach from rotating. Please ask your veterinarian about this procedure if you have a breed predisposed to GDV.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOUR DOG HAS GDV

- GDV is an emergency!
- Seek veterinary care immediately if symptoms for GDV are observed!

