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5 Signs Puppy Throwing Up is Medical Emergency

Puppy Throwing Up? When to See Veterinarian

By **Jillita Horton**

If your puppy's been throwing up, this could mean a medical emergency, so how do you know when your vomiting puppy needs to see a vet ASAP? Though there are common, relatively benign reasons that can make a puppy vomit, beware of life-threatening conditions that will kill your beloved pet without prompt medical treatment by a veterinarian.

When a puppy merely throws up, this is common. "Some of the minor causes of vomiting include stomach or intestinal viruses, parasites, and dietary indiscretions (such as eating garbage or other offensive or irritating materials)," says Dr. Michel Selmer, DVM, of [Advanced Animal Care Center](#) in Huntington, NY. However, here are signs that your puppy is throwing up due to a **medical emergency and needs prompt veterinary attention:**

"Bloat." The belly is distended. The puppy is throwing up repeatedly and is also exhibiting signs of extreme distress, panting, drooling, retching, etc. This condition, also called torsion, affects large breeds and can be especially brought on by exercising a dog right after it eats a full meal. The stomach becomes swollen; the actual stomach organ twists, or torques. This condition requires veterinary help asap, as it can kill your pet -- after a lot of pain.

The vomit contains blood (either bright red or brown and clumpy). This can signal stomach ulcers or esophageal inflammation. If your puppy's vomit shows signs of blood, don't wait to get your pet to the vet.

Inspect the vomit. Though this is gross, it can save your dog's life. If the vomit contains non-edible items, this isn't always a medical emergency. But if in addition to throwing up, your puppy is straining with bowel movements, is retching or distressed, this can be a medical emergency; see veterinarian immediately.

The puppy throws up repeatedly and forcefully. This includes throwing up even when your pet hasn't been eating or drinking; and/or can't keep food down. Get medical attention right away. Repeatedly vomiting, in and of itself, even though the cause may be benign, is a medical emergency because it can cause life-threatening dehydration.

The vomiting is accompanied by additional symptoms like lethargy, refusal to eat, diarrhea, panting and other peculiar signs of distress. This can signal a body-wide infection, poisoning, or a life-threatening illness like Parvo. These signs are a medical emergency; don't wait to see a veterinarian.

If your puppy's been throwing up and shows any of these signs, don't do something regrettable by waiting to see what happens. Get moving to the veterinarian. My massage therapist chose to wait when her large breed dog started showing signs of bloat/torsion. This can kill adult dogs, and she delayed medical treatment, not recognizing classic emergency signs of this problem. The dog died, leaving her three young daughters devastated.

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