



THE ROTTWEILER INSTITUTE

911: WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?

with Dr. Diane Voss

Practical Response Guide for Owners, Breeders & Handlers

1 BLOAT (GDV) LIFE-THREATENING



EARLY WARNING SIGNS

- Restlessness, standing still
- Drooling, distress
- Abdomen starting to feel tight
- Attempting to vomit with nothing coming up



IMMEDIATE ACTION

- Give simethicone (Gas-X) early
- Attempt to relieve gas (if trained)
- **GET TO EMERGENCY VET IMMEDIATELY** if worsening



PREVENTION

- No exercise before/after meals (2+ hours after)
- Feed 2 smaller meals vs 1 large
- Avoid large water intake when hot

2 DIARRHEA (ON THE ROAD & AT SHOWS)



TYPES

STRESS (LARGE INTESTINE)

- Mucus, possible fresh blood
- Frequent small amounts

SERIOUS (SMALL INTESTINE)

- Large volume, watery
- Vomiting + dehydration risk



QUICK RESPONSE

- Treat early to stop escalation
- Bland diet (chicken/rice or prescription)
- Probiotics



MEDICATIONS TO KNOW

- Metronidazole (short-term use)
- Cerenia (anti-inflammatory)
- Famotidine (Pepcid)

KEY TIP: Don't fully stop food—reduce and keep it bland unless vomiting.

3 VOMITING / INGESTION EMERGENCIES



IF DOG EATS SOMETHING DANGEROUS

- Hydrogen peroxide can induce vomiting
- Use quickly (before digestion progresses)
- Do NOT repeat more than once



WARNING: Not for sharp or toxic substances.

4 HEAT STROKE TIME CRITICAL



SIGNS

- Heavy panting
- Drooling, distress
- Dark/red gums
- Temp rising (over 105°F = emergency)

IMMEDIATE ACTION

- Move to shade/AC immediately
- Cool water (NOT cold) on: belly, feet, face
- Use fans
- Rubbing alcohol on paw pads/ears can help

NON-NEGOTIABLE:

Even if they recover—GO TO VET.

5 ALLERGIC REACTIONS



SIGNS

- Facial swelling
- Hives
- Weakness



RESPONSE

- Benadryl: 50–75mg (adult Rottweiler range)
- Monitor closely



ADVANCED KIT

- EpiPen (severe reactions)
- Dexamethasone

6 EARS & EYES



EAR ISSUES

- Sudden head shaking = irritation
- Use mild ointment (Animax/Panallog)



EYE ISSUES

- Discharge = rinse + lubricate
- Squinting/pain = vet ASAP (possible ulcer)



AVOID

- Steroid eye drops unless sure no ulcer

7 WOUNDS & BLEEDING



BASIC PROTOCOL

1. Apply pressure
2. Clean with wound wash
3. Bandage temporarily



MUST-HAVE

- Styptic powder
- Gauze & wraps
- Clippers + headlamp

8 BROKEN TOENAIL



WHAT HAPPENS

- Painful, heavy bleeding

IMMEDIATE FIX

- Apply pressure (side-to-side squeeze)
- Use styptic powder

KEY INSIGHT

Pressure stops bleeding faster than anything.

WATCH FOR

- Swelling = infection → needs antibiotics

9 DEHYDRATION & FLUIDS



WHEN NEEDED

- Severe diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Young dogs



BEST SUPPORT

- Subcutaneous fluids
- Keep probiotics on hand

10 SKIN ISSUES / HOT SPOTS



WHAT TO DO

- Clean once (saline or peroxide)
- Keep DRY (critical)
- Use powders, not ointments



AVOID

- Moisture-trapping creams early on

11 DISEASE PREVENTION (TRAVEL & SHOWS)

- Reality check: You cannot eliminate risk—but you can reduce it
- Disinfect shoes, hands, equipment (Rescue)
- Avoid high-traffic potty areas
- Don't let dogs sniff heavily
- Keep distance from unknown dogs

GOLDEN RULE: Never bring a sick dog to an event.

12 WATER INTAKE & TOXICITY



RISKS

- Gulping water when hot
- Excess intake while swimming

PREVENTION

- Offer small amounts frequently
- Monitor swimmers (especially high-drive dogs)

13 EMERGENCY KIT ESSENTIALS



- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✓ Simethicone (Gas-X) | ✓ Thermometer | ✓ Hydrogen peroxide |
| ✓ Metronidazole / Cerenia | ✓ Styptic powder | ✓ SubQ fluids (if trained) |
| ✓ Famotidine | ✓ Wound wash | ✓ Clippers |
| ✓ Benadryl | ✓ Eye wash & lubricant | ✓ Gauze, wraps, tape |
| ✓ Probiotics | ✓ Ear ointment | |



BOTTOM LINE

- Act early — small issues escalate fast.
- ✓ Know your dog's normal (temperature, behavior, abdomen feel).
- ✓ Control what you can — environment, hygiene, feeding habits.
- ✓ Have supplies ready before you need them.



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Always consult a licensed veterinarian in any medical emergency or for concerns about your dog's health.