

## **DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS**

### ***GDV (GASTRIC DILATATION VOLVULUS)/ BLOAT/ TORSION-***

Presenting signs include vomiting, diarrhea and a bloated abdomen. The dog appears shocky. **CALL VET IMMEDIATELY, THIS IS LIFE THREATENING.** Certain breeds are predisposed to this and certain activities can trigger this. Know your dog and it's breed problems.

***VOMITING-*** if persistent, do not allow dog to eat for 24 hours (less if a pup). If vomiting continues, remove the water and **DO NOT ALLOW** the dog to eat or drink anything. (most dogs' think that if they eat or drink something they will feel better—this is usually not the case). Bloody vomit may be caused by irritation to the g.i. tract. If bloody vomit is accompanied by bloody diarrhea -**CALL VET.**

***DIARRHEA-*** Stop feeding for 24 hours to slow g.i.system down. If diarrhea is bloody, collect a sample and **CALL VET.** Some breeds are predisposed to hemorrhagic gastroenteritis (HGE) which is a life threatening condition.

Common causes of vomiting and/or diarrhea include gastritis, foreign body ingestion, HGE, parvovirus, other viral diseases, internal parasites pancreatitis, poisoning, kidney failure, and for some dogs, stress. Famotidine, Kao-Pectate, and Pepto Bismol can be used to help take away the gastric irritation, but will not always fix the problem.

***ORAL INJURIES/BROKEN TEETH-*** if there is a foreign object in the roof of the mouth, try to extract it. If an object is under the tongue or in the throat **CALL VET.** Broken teeth are rarely painful to the dog and may not need care.