

Swiss Run Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Splenic Torsion

Splenic torsion can occur as a separate entity or in association with gastric dilation (bloat). It is more common in large breed, deep chested dogs. With this condition, the spleen rotates around its own axis, either away from or towards the stomach. The spleen then becomes engorged with blood and may expand to several times its normal size. If the spleen rotates away from the stomach it may torsion several times. If the spleen rotates towards the stomach it may pull it along causing a partial or even complete gastric torsion, creating a very dangerous and potentially fatal situation calling for instant medical attention. Unless the stomach is involved and obvious signs of GDV are present, the signs of splenic torsion are often quite vague and may vary from case to case. Signs may include: - Inappetence, vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, low level fever, general listlessness, tucked up abdomen, tenderness of the abdomen or slight abdominal distention, pale gums, or cardiac trouble. Splenic torsion is a life-threatening condition, which requires immediate veterinary care. In a surgical procedure called splenectomy, the spleen is removed without twisting it back to normal first. Often, a gastropexy (stomach tack) is performed at the same time if the animal's condition allows this additional procedure. The causes of splenic torsion are not known. In Swissys, dogs over the age of 5 years appear to have a higher incidence; however, quite a few cases of younger Swissys have been reported. For the GSMD, splenic torsion unfortunately is one of the major health problems. If caught early your dog should live a happy normal life without their spleen. Make sure you have a veterinary close by that is familiar with GSMD health issues to properly diagnose your pet.