




## HOW TO Treat Your Dog's Excessive Gas

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Posted by [Laura Goldman](#) on October 13, 2010 //  0 Comments

Last Week: [HOW TO Treat Your Dog's Hot Spots](#)

In the popular children's book, "[Walter the Farting Dog](#)," a family's gassy pooch saves their house from being burglarized by scaring off the thieves with his malodorous flatulence.

If your dog could easily perform a similar heroic deed, there's no need to invest in a gas mask or keep him confined to the great outdoors. In most cases, his gas is natural and doesn't indicate a more serious condition. There are ways you can help make life much more pleasant for him — and you.



### What Gives Dogs Excessive Gas?

As with us humans, flatulence is caused when bacteria in the digestive tract break down food particles. This process creates gas, which can accumulate in your dog's gastrointestinal tract. While it rarely indicates a serious health problem, if your dog's flatulence becomes prolonged or excessive, you should take him to the [vet](#).

These are some of the common causes of gas in dogs, according to [vetinfo.com](#) and [dogs.about.com](#):

- ❗ Swallowing air when they "wolf" down their food too quickly.
- ❗ Eating foods that can cause gas, such as beans, milk, peas, soybeans, spicy or fatty foods.
- ❗ Feeding your dog a poor-quality diet, such as inexpensive dog food, table scraps, excessive treats, etc.
- ❗ Impacted [anal glands](#) can not only cause your dog discomfort, but they can also increase noxious odors. You can express them yourself, or your vet or groomer can do it.

Some breeds are more prone to be gasbags than others. These are the five most flatulent breeds, according to [Dogster.com](#):

1. [Bulldog](#)
2. [German Shepherd](#)
3. [Mastiff](#)
4. [Boxer](#)
5. [Labrador Retriever](#)



In rare cases, [vetinfo.com](#) reports that gas can indicate an intestinal parasite infection. Excessive gas can also contribute to [gastric dilation and volvulus](#) (GDV), also known as bloat. This condition can be fatal if it isn't treated.

If your dog's gas is accompanied by [diarrhea](#), vomiting, abdominal pain, bloating and/or weight loss, this could be a sign of a serious condition. You should take him to your vet immediately.