



Are Dogs That Are Fed from a Raised Bowl at an Increased Risk of Gastric Dilation Volvulus Compared with Floor-Fed Dogs?

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Hello, my name's Louise Buckley. And I'd like to talk to you about a Knowledge Summary that I wrote for Veterinary Evidence and the title of my Knowledge Summary and indeed my PICO question was, 'are dogs that are fed from a raised bowl at an increased risk of gastric dilation volvulus, compared with floor fed dogs'. And the motivation for this particular Knowledge Summary came from the recognition that some veterinary professionals recommend the use of raised bowl feeders as a way of reducing the risk of large and giant breed dogs developing the life-threatening condition GDV. But I was interested to know whether there was actually any science to back that particular professional recommendation. So, I decided to carry out a Knowledge Summary to find out. So I generated my PICO and I consulted the literature and I actually looked at four different databases and I came up with 251 hits of which only two research papers were relevant to addressing my PICO question.

Now of these two studies one of the studies found no effect of feeder height on risk of GDV, but problems with the reporting of the data and also with the population that, they surveyed meant that I didn't feel that these results were particularly reliable.

The second of the studies did find an effect of feeding from a raised bowl feeder. And they found that it increased the risk of GDV relative from feeding from the floor. But the results were slightly more complicated than that. And that was that there was an interaction between the height of the dog, so whether it was a large breed dog or a giant breed dog and the height of the feed. So, raise feeders to a foot high versus raised bowl feeders that were greater than a foot high. And what they found was that for giant breed dogs, if they were fed from a raised bowl feeder that was greater than a foot high, then their risk of GDV increased relative to being fed from the floor or from a raised bowl feeder that was up to a foot tall.

Conversely, if you were a large breed dog, your risk of GDV was increased if you were fed from a raised bowl feeder up to, or a foot tall relative to being fed from the floor. But if you were fed from a raised bowl feeder that was greater than a foot tall, then the risk was not increased. So there was an interaction between height of dog and height of the feet of the raised bowl feeder. Neither study found that feeding from a raised feeder reduced the risk of GDV relative of feeding from the floor. So, it actually conflicted with the professional recommendations that some veterinary professionals are giving owners, and realistically in the absence of further research, probably the safest thing to do would be to recommend the owners of at-risk breeds, feed the dog from, from a bowl on the floor. And this, ultimately this may not reduce the risk of

GDV. There certainly wasn't any evidence to suggest that it would increase the risk. And I think this is important, to our practice.

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