



VON WILLEBRAND'S DISEASE

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Von Willebrand's factor is a protein that helps platelets stick to damaged blood vessels. It also stabilizes another clotting factor to form a strong blood clot.

Von Willebrand's disease is a genetic condition in certain dog breeds. These dogs do not produce enough von Willebrand's factor, which raises the risk of sudden bleeding or prolonged bleeding after injuries. Affected breeds include:

- Dobermans
- German Shepherds
- Rottweilers
- Shetland Sheepdogs
- Standard Poodles

Common signs are heavy mouth bleeding when puppies lose teeth, or excessive bleeding during spay or neuter surgeries.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Tests are available to check for Von Willebrand's disease.

- A lab test measures von Willebrand's factor levels.
- A genetic test helps identify risks in breeding animals.
- Buccal Mucosal Bleeding Time screens platelet function but does not confirm the disease.

TREATMENT

There is no permanent treatment for Von Willebrand's disease.

Transfusions offer temporary relief:

- **Before planned surgery:** Plasma transfusion or cryoprecipitate (injectable plasma with von Willebrand's factor).
 - This lowers bleeding risk for about 4 hours.
- **For active bleeding from injury:** Plasma transfusion.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- When young, monitor at-risk breeds for excessive oral bleeding following tooth loss.
- Consider screening at-risk breeds, especially prior to breeding or surgical procedures.
- Pre-transfuse patients before procedures.
- Keep a quiet lifestyle