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WHAT IS VON WILLEBRANDS DISEASE?

A: A blood clotting disorder (similar to Hemophilia) which results from a low level of von Willebrand factor in the blood.

This disorder is prevalent in many breeds of dogs as a hereditary abnormality. Most often it will manifest itself in puppies under a year of age, who have undergone some form of trauma to the body, whether it be from a torn toe nail, losing a baby tooth, a skin laceration or surgery. However, many breeds have a higher genetic incidence, and a few examples of such breeds are Shelties, Scottish Terriers, and Dobermans

If you have recently acquired a new puppy, at first check up, consult with your Veterinarian as to the likelihood of this condition existing.

If your puppy is a high incidence breed, he or she should have a blood test before any elective surgery is performed. This would include spaying and neutering.

Dogs that have von Willebrands disease have blood that clots very slowly, which could cause them to quite easily bleed to death after any surgical procedure. By detecting this disease beforehand, your Veterinarian can take certain actions to prevent this type of blood loss from occurring

Forewarned is forearmed.

Wishing you and your pets good health and happiness
Happy New Year!