



This section is not a comprehensive list of problems the breed may suffer but we consider these conditions to be the most relevant. We consider only a few health issues as life threatening. Please seek other options and consult with your veterinarian.

THE ROAD.

Although not a health problem, most Dobermanns who die suddenly or unexpectedly do so because they have been run over. Even the most experienced owners have lost animals in this way so always be mindful and never relax your level of car.

POISONING.

This is the most serious preventable condition which may affect your Dobermann. Apart from household chemicals and pesticides, many common plants are poisonous to dogs. Take the time to find out if any plants in your garden are poisonous. Another common cause is snail bait killer. If you have a dog do not take the risk of spreading snail bait rather just squash them.

WOBBLER SYNDROME.

This occurs in large breeds and can affect Dobermanns. Also referred to as “cervical vertebral instability” it is an instability of the vertebrae in the neck which can cause trauma to the spinal cord. In severe cases this can manifest as lack of control of limbs particularly rear ones. This disease usually does not occur till the animal is old, but sometimes comes earlier or a result of injury. While we make every effort to eliminate this syndrome from our breeding, it can be difficult as onset usually is later in life. When purchasing a puppy it would be wise to inspect the older relatives if possible.

BLOAT.

Bloat is a swelling, sometimes twisting of the stomach. This occurs in deep chested breeds of which the Dobermann is one. May be caused by overeating (especially if eaten quickly), exercise before or after eating, and

drinking large amounts of water in conjunction with eating. The build up of gas in the stomach is serious and life threatening. Be careful with how, what and when you feed your animal and bloat should not be a problem. If it does occur seek vet attention immediately as this condition can be FATAL.

CARDIOMYOPATHY.

Cardiomyopathy is a heart condition describing a deterioration of the heart muscle. Sudden death can occur without any prior symptoms. Although medical exam can diagnose this problem this is not foolproof. There is evidence that some forms of this condition may be genetically transmitted. This can be difficult to confirm as not all owners want an autopsy on their beloved Dobe when it dies unexpectedly.

HYPOTHYROIDISM.

This is a malfunction of the thyroid gland and is usually indicated by excessive over or under weight and often poor coat. This condition is thought to be hereditary and is treatable. Breeders generally test their stock and avoid using animals with poor results.

HIP AND ELBOW DYSPLASIA.

Serious incidences of these conditions, to our knowledge are not very common in Dobermanns.

VON WILLEBRANDS DISEASE.

VWD is a condition similar to haemophilia in that it is a bleeding disorder. Many of the top breeders do not consider this a serious condition and we are not aware of any animal of our breeding bleeding to death as a result of the condition.

Generally Dobermanns are a fit healthy breed with few serious complaints except they never live as long as their owners would like.

