

Helpful Definitions for Genetic Disorders

Hypothyroidism—abnormally low production of thyroid hormone; common in Golden Retrievers, Doberman Pinscher Pinchers, Chow Chows, Giant Schnauzers and others.

Hip dysplasia—abnormal development of hip joint; common in Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Labradors, Vislas, Great Pyrenees and others.

Cardiomyopathy—abnormal heart muscle; common in Boxers, Newfoundlands, Saint Bernards, Doberman Pinschers and others.

Cataracts—thickening of the eye lens; common in Golden Retrievers, Labradors, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Afghans, Old English Sheepdogs, Staffordshire Bull Terriers and others.

Seizures—epilepsy or convulsions; common in Beagles, Poodles, Bichon-Frises, Dachshunds, Springer Spaniels and more.

Bleeding disorders—lack of various blood clotting factors; common in Alaskan Malamute, Doberman Pinschers, Collies, German Shorthair Pointers, Bulldogs, Greyhounds, Samoyeds and more.

Patellar luxation—kneecap slips out of place; common in Yorkshire Terriers, Papillions, Silky Terriers, Lhasa Apsos, Maltese, Pugs, Boston Terriers and others.

Megaesophagus—abnormal dilation of the esophagus; common in Irish Setters, German Shepherds, Miniature Schnauzers, Skye Terriers, Great Danes and more.

Gastric dilation and volvulus—bloating and twisting of the stomach; common in Great Danes, Boxers, Greyhounds, Saint Bernards, Mastiffs, Standard Poodles and more.

Retinal degeneration—decay of the nerve cell layer that lines the eye; common in Australian Shepherds, Collies, Pointers, Salukis, Border Collies, Gordon Setters and many more.

Osteochondrosis dissecans—decay of cartilage of top of thigh bone at hip; common in German Shepherds, Irish Setters, Great Danes, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards, Giant Schnauzers and more.

Cancer—abnormal tissue growth; common in Boxers, Boston Terriers, Weimaraners, Airedales, Scottish Terriers and more.

Generalized demodectic mange—hair loss all over body due to a common skin mite; tendency toward clinical signs common in Shar Peis, West Highland white terrier, Scottish terrier, English bulldog, Boston terrier, great Dane, Weimaraners, Airedale, Malamute and Afghan.

Glaucoma—increased pressure in the inner eye; common in Fox Terriers, Chihuahuas, Boston Terriers, Basset Hounds, Salukis, Norwegian Elkhounds, Poodles and more.

Bone cancer—abnormal growth of bone cells; common in Doberman Pinschers, Irish Setters, Great Danes, Saint Bernards and more.

Dystocia—problems giving birth; common in Bloodhounds, Boston Terriers, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Scottish Terriers and more.

Underdeveloped or collapsing trachea—windpipe collapse; common in Bulldogs, Silky Terriers, Chihuahuas, Pomeranians and more.

Von Willebrand's disease—certain type of bleeding disorder; common in Doberman Pinschers, German Shepherds, Shelties, Scottish Terriers, Greyhounds, Siberian Huskies and more.

Hernia—weakness in body wall that allows internal tissues to protrude; common in Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Airedales, Springer Spaniels, Lhasa Apsos and more.

Cryptorchidism—one or both testicles fail to descend into scrotum; common in Border Collies, Pomeranians, Poodles, Whippets, Weimaraners, Miniature Schnauzers, Brittanies and more.

Entropion—eyelid(s) roll in and irritate the eye; common in Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Chow Chows, Chinese Shar Peis, Pugs, Akitas, Schipperkes and more.

Deafness—lack of hearing; common in Cocker Spaniels, Bulldogs, Parson Russell Terriers, West Highland White Terriers, Akitas, Dalmatians, American Staffordshire Terriers, Shelties and more.

Legg-Perthes disease—death of top of thigh bone due to lack of blood supply; common in Miniature Pinchers, West Highland White Terriers, Fox Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Pugs, Silky Terriers and more.

Intervertebral disc disease—"slipped disc" in spinal column; common in Dachshunds, Beagles, Cocker Spaniels, Scotties, Pekingese, Poodles and others.