

State of Doberman Health*

- CERF eye exams 2001-2003. Of 515 Dobermans examined, 403 were certified normal, 78%. Only ONE case of PHPV/PTVL was recorded. This is probably a general underestimate. Few owners submit dogs to CERF exams unless they expect certification. Nonetheless, it appears that the increase in European imports has not yet impacted the breed in this country.
- Top 100 diagnoses in veterinary hospitals nationwide 2003:

1. DCM --congestive	44. Osteosarcoma-Lung
2. Hypothyroid	50. Tumor Lung
3. Cervicospinal Arthropathy (Wobbler's)	60. Lymphosarcoma
4. Angiohemophilia (vWD)	61. Chronic Hepatitis
11. ACL rupture	89. Tumor Abdomen
32. Torsion Stomach	90. Tumor Mammary Gland
38. Dilated Stomach	

Surprising is the high incidence of vWD and the low incidence of chronic hepatitis.

Cancer should be higher since various types are listed separately.

Several diseases are underestimated because different diagnostic classifications are given for the same disease.

The incidence of DCM is underestimated:

10. Ventricular premature contraction
14. Acquired Cardiomyopathy
15. Heart Failure

Also problematic are the sudden death cases; many of these are not presented to veterinary hospitals for diagnosis

The incidence of CVI is underestimated too:

20. Instability cervical vertebrae
41. Tetraparesis (total paralysis)
42. Compression spinal cord
51. Wobblers malformation

• The male/female percentages are interesting:

DCM: females 33%, males 67%

Hypothyroid: females 50%, males 50%

Wobbler's syndrome: females 49% males 51%

The age profiles for these three diseases are shown at right →

*A Statement to accompany the result reports of all VMDB searches:

*The veterinary Medical Data Base is maintained and managed by a consortium of U.S. and Canadian veterinary colleges known as the American Association of Veterinary Medical Data Program Participants, Inc., a not for profit corporation licensed in the states of Illinois and Indiana. Since 1964 these colleges have submitted over 6,500,000 ABSTRACTS of medical records of animals of many species seen in their teaching hospitals or by the field services. The submission of the record abstracts is done on a voluntary basis by the veterinary colleges.

*The abstracts contain visit and demographic information such as species, breed, gender, age range, weight range, zip or postal code where the animal resides, etc. In addition to the diagnosis or diagnoses and procedures done, the abstract also contains any operations that may have been performed. The abstract does not contain specific results of diagnostic tests or the detailed outcome of any therapy. The only tacit outcome that is available is if the animal was discharged alive or if it died or was euthanized.

*The diagnoses in the abstracts of these medical records are made by veterinarians who are specialists in their field or were being supervised by a board certified specialist in nearly every case. Most diagnoses are supported or confirmed by testing such as radiography and histopathology. These diagnoses are then reduced to nine-digit code in a coding system known as the STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF VETERINARY DISEASES AND OPERATIONS (SNVDO). The abstracts consist of coded demographic information and the nine digit SNVDO codes.

When interpreting the data that is the result of a VMDB query, one must be well aware what the data represents and how it was collected.

