

Bleeding issues in greyhounds

Our greyhounds occasionally have bleeding problems in the days after surgery, seen as severe bruising, bleeding from wounds or even internally which can require fluid therapy, blood transfusions or even further surgery.

Greyhounds' physiology is slightly different from other dogs- having more red blood cells and less white blood cells (that work on infection), and also more importantly, less platelets. Platelets are essential for creating clots and the breaking down of them is called fibrinolysis.

The reason for bleeding in greyhounds is undetermined, though the current theory is that their blood clots but then breaks down too quickly after- this is called having enhanced fibrinolysis.

In humans, enhanced fibrinolysis/clot breakdown can be a side effect of certain diseases, and is reduced by the giving of a drug called Asminocaproic acid. We use a drug called Cyklokapron (tranexamic acid) to the same effect in our GAP hounds which come in for de-sexing surgery, giving them a tablet when they arrive and send them home with it also.

This drug isn't readily available and often vets aren't aware of its' existence, so it's important as hound owners for you to know of it and tell your vets about it. Please get your vet to contact Ben or Lucy at Anexa FVC Te Kauwhata for more information.