

Seizures in Dogs

There are many different causes, types and treatments for seizures. They most commonly occur in dogs but can occur in cats. Seizures can occur at any age depending on the cause. Some of the causes of seizures are consuming a poison, low or high blood sugar, electrolyte problems, head trauma, or cancer; just to name a few. Depending on the cause and frequency of the seizure will determine the type of treatment to control them.

There are different ways to diagnose the cause or causes of the seizure. The first place to start is blood work which checks for any abnormalities that could help in determining the cause. In some cases there needs to be further diagnostics that will need a referral to a specialist. The specialist will then determine which tests would need to be done based on the history, frequency, duration of the seizures, and blood work. The tests could range anywhere from a specific blood test to an ultrasound to a CT scan. Despite testing, sometimes the conclusion is an unknown reason called idiopathic epilepsy.

There are many symptoms of seizures. They can be anything from involuntary facial twitching, tongue chewing and drooling to collapsing, jerking, muscle stiffness and loss of consciousness. These symptoms can last from a few seconds to several minutes. Seizures are not breed specific, but can occur in some breeds more than others. If your pet has a seizure, please take them to the vet immediately.

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