

Seizures and Epilepsy in Dogs

An integrative approach can be an effective way to treat these conditions



EPILEPSY AND SEIZURES: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The disease of “epilepsy” is not very well understood by Western conventional veterinary medicine, especially in dogs and cats. There is no cure, and treatments are designed to suppress biochemical reactions and “slow the excitability” of the neurons. Dogs who have “seizures” might not have true epilepsy but are responding to physical, environmental, or emotional stress while experiencing compromised brain function due to lack of proper nutrition, aging, hereditary reasons, or a buildup of heavy metals in the brain from food and water.

A “stroke” can be classified as a type of seizure, and can reoccur, causing progressive signs such as permanent head tilt, deafness, blindness, and vertigo.

CONDITIONS THAT CAN LEAD TO SEIZURES

Many conditions can result in seizure activity in dogs. If we want to affect a cure for the problem, it's important to track back and see if we can identify any “triggers” that may have been overlooked. Some of these include:

- Chronic exposure to pesticides and toxins
- Drug reactions (Proin, Heartguard/ Ivermectin, Fipronil, etc.)
- Food allergy reaction
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Brain tumors
- Genetic predisposition
- Cervical vertebral luxation
- Kidney disease
- Eclampsia/milk fever
- Hepatitis/liver disease/metabolic syndrome
- Idiopathic
- Low blood glucose to the brain can be another factor. A condition that seems to be common in certain breeds with seizures (Labs, Golden Retrievers, Dobermans, German Shepherds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, etc.) is hypothyroidism.
- More recently, veterinarians in the US are reporting seizures after multiple vaccinations, especially rabies.
- Seizures in geriatric dogs (eight years and older) can result from metabolic biochemical disturbances in the brain. These can be due to poor circulation, vitamin or mineral deficiencies, fatty infiltration, chronic infections, liver dysfunction, a deficiency in the heart, and a buildup of heavy metals and pesticides.
- Different dogs may react in a variety of similar and different ways during a seizure, and there are many kinds of seizures.