

NEUROLOGIC PROBLEMS

SEIZURES- Seizures can be either petit mal or grand mal. Seizures can happen anytime. After a grand mal seizure, most dogs have a post ictal period (period where they are not normal, but not seizing). When you are timing a seizure this post ictal period does not count. Seizures are emergencies when the seizures last more than 2-3 minutes, multiple seizures occur in a 24-hour period, or one seizure follows another and another. If these occur CALL THE VET. Your dog may need to be sedated or actually anesthetized to stop the seizure. In general, when your pet seizes it is best to keep other animals away and to put the dog in a safe place (on the floor). Do not try to pull out the tongue or hold a dog who is having a grand mal seizure (you will probably get hurt).

VESTIBULAR SYNDROME- Acute in onset. Typical presentations include staggering, head tilt, vomiting and nystagmus (where the eyes dart from side to side). If your dog has had no known trauma and this acute type of onset, as disturbing as it is, your pet may just need supportive care until this resolves (may take several weeks).

CONCUSSION-usually caused by trauma. The dog may show signs of shock, lose consciousness and have unequal pupils. CALL VET.

PARALYSIS/BACK PAIN- trauma is a common cause of paralysis and back pain. Disc disease can also cause severe pain and ultimately paralysis if left untreated. Some breeds are more prone to disc disease than others are. For dogs in severe pain and/or dogs that show neurologic signs in their legs -- CALL THE VET. Some dogs respond well to treatment with aspirin (helps with pain and inflammation). Dogs stumbling or showing other neurologic signs will need more extensive anti-inflammatories or even surgery. When moving the dog try to carry the dog evenly without bending its spine. In cases of back injury caused by trauma, do not try to make the dog stand. Test for feeling/sensation in the legs by firmly pinching or squeezing a toe on the affected leg(s).