

Seizures

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What is a seizure?

- Seizures are the clinical manifestation of sudden, uncontrolled electrical signaling in the brain
- There are different types of seizures, and their presentation depends on which portions of the brain are involved
 - Generalized seizures (“Grand mal”)
 - Focal seizures (“Petit mal”)
 - Focal seizures with secondary generalization
- Epilepsy is the enduring disorder of the brain characterized by recurrent seizures



Different causes of seizures

- Genetic predisposition
- Changes in concentration of electrolytes, glucose in the blood, anemia
- Toxicosis
- Head injury
- Kidney or Liver failure
- Stroke
- Encephalitis
- Brain Tumor

What should I do if my pet has a seizure!?

- Remain calm and provide comfort
 - Know that your pet is not in pain
- Check the time at the beginning and end
- Capture the event on video, or write down what you observed after the seizure has passed
- Keep your pet in an open, quiet, dark, cool space
- Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible, especially if the seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes, your pet has more than one seizure in 24 hours, or your pet does not return to consciousness between seizures

Clinical chronology

There are three different stages of a seizure

1. Pre-ictal: time prior to the onset of the seizure
2. Ictus: time during which seizure activity is observed
3. Post-ictal: period after the seizure has occurred

How can my veterinarian help?



- Determine if what you observed was truly a seizure
 - There are many conditions that express the same clinical symptoms as seizures, but stem from an entirely different problem
- Draw a conclusion on what may have caused the seizure
- Propose the best route to take in order to treat your pet's ep