

DOG BREEDS PRONE TO SEIZURES



Beagle



Keeshond



Belgian Tervuren



Golden Retriever



Labrador Retriever



Vizsla



Shetland Sheepdog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Poodle



Saint Bernard

TYPES OF SEIZURES

1. **Focal or Partial** No impairment of consciousness. May show a single area of muscle twitching.
2. **Complex Partial** Serial movements with some impairment of consciousness.
3. **Severe generalized** Complete body involvement, impaired consciousness, may lose control of bowel or bladder.

STATUS EPILEPTICUS:

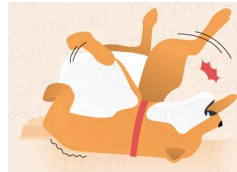
Seizure that persists for a very long time (5 min) - true medical emergency. Status Epilepticus can occur either as a series of multiple seizures without recovery within a short period of time, or as one continuous seizure that can last up to 30 minutes.

LESS COMMON FORMS

Absence seizure: very short (seconds) loss of cerebral function without motor involvement.

Myoclonic seizure: one large muscular jerk without loss of cerebral function.

IDIOPATHIC EPILEPSY



- Idiopathic Epilepsy is defined as a recurring seizure disorder in dogs.
- Idiopathic epilepsy is the most common cause of dog seizures.

CAUSES OF IDIOPATHIC SEIZURES

- No "cause" exists. Idiopathic seizures in dogs are due to genetic factors and heredity.

THE GENETIC FACTORS

- Can be recessive, in which it doesn't appear present in the patient, yet is passed to the offspring.
- Can be polygenic, where multiple alleles caused the epilepsy.



TYPES OF EPILEPSY

1. **True epilepsy** seizures happen over a long period of time and do not get worse.
2. **Symptomatic epilepsy** seizures progressively get worse (usually due to an intracranial disorder).
3. **Reactive epilepsy** seizures due to something elsewhere on the body/extracranial.

SEIZURE BROCHURE

IDIOPATHIC EPILEPSY



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PRODROME PHASE (UP TO YEARS)

This phase may happen for years on its own before the seizure occurs.

- It is characterized by short episodes of strange behavior - trembling, whining, biting, snapping, gnawing of limbs, restlessness, avoidance of people, nervousness, clinginess.



AURAL PHASE (SECS - HOURS)

At this stage, your dog may whine, shiver, pace, or become anxious.

- These symptoms may last for hours before the actual seizure.



ICTAL PHASE (30 SEC - 2 MIN)

The actual seizure is part of the ictal phase.

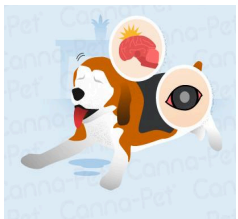
- At the start of a seizure, the dog may fall to one side and begin paddling & convulsing.



POST-ICTAL PHASE (A FEW HRS-DAYS)

The post-ictal phase occurs when the seizure has finished.

- The dog may be confused, dizzy, or temporarily blind.



DIAGNOSIS

- Ruled out by blood work, CT/MRI.
- Signs usually occur around 1-3 years of age.
 - Dogs which appear normal between seizures.
- Generalized seizures last 30s - 2min, & may occur singularly or in clusters.
 - May recur at fairly regular intervals.

TREATMENT

- Correct primary disease if identified. Only treated if happening more than once a month.
- Valium (Diazepam)
 - Given intrarectally to stop immediately. Can be given 2-3x a day. Can be given IV.
- Propofol (IV)
 - Helpful for status epilepticus.
- Phenobarbital
 - Takes 7-10 days to reach adequate blood levels.
 - Can cause liver toxicity.
 - Monitor phenobarbital levels and liver enzymes.
- KBr (Potassium Bromide)
 - Takes 3-4 months to reach adequate levels.
 - Monitor every 4-6 weeks with KBr serum levels.
- Levetiracetam
 - For refractory seizures.
- Goal is to reduce severity and frequency.

IF YOUR DOG HAS A SEIZURE (CANNA-PET.COM)



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