

## Seizures

Seizures can occur in dogs and cats of all ages and for many different reasons. In general, seizures are caused by 2 major groups of problems:

Problems not originating from the brain, such as

- Poisons
- Kidney, liver, or heart disease
- Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia)
- Nerve or muscle problems
- Infections

Problems originating in the brain itself, such as

- Epilepsy
- Brain infections (viral, bacterial, fungal)
- Degenerative conditions of the brain
- Hydrocephalus
- Brain tumors
- Stroke-like conditions and blood clots in the brain

The seizure is not a diagnosis in itself, but a symptom of an underlying problem. After one seizure episode, it is often difficult to determine whether your pet will have further seizures, but your veterinarian will formulate a diagnostic plan to help make a diagnosis or rule out certain diseases. These diagnostics may include blood work, radiographs, urinalysis, blood pressure, or ECG. In most cases, we are looking for normal test results and a thorough process of elimination to determine that the problem is in the brain.

At this point, we may prescribe anti-seizure medications or recommend further testing through a referral to a neurologist for MRI or CSF tap.