

Seizures

Seizures are commonly caused by epilepsy, but can be due to disease of the brain, toxicity, liver and kidney malfunction, or even infection.

Seizures have 3 phases:

pre-ictal	- we often see a change of behavior before the seizure
ictus	- the seizure (shaking and/or uncontrolled behavior)
post-ictal phase	- tiredness and confusion may last minutes to hours

Seizures can also range in severity from complete unconsciousness, to just staring or a single leg shaking. Medication is often required to control seizures.

**Seizure diagnosis and treatment can require multiple blood tests
and sometimes specialist imaging such as CT Scans.**

Seizure First Aid

1. Stay calm and keep yourself safe.
2. Remove hazards from the area around your seizing pet (ie tables, chairs, stairs).
3. Place something soft under your pet's head.
4. Talk soothingly and touch them on their neck and shoulders (if safe) until they are able to sit up.
5. When an animal is having a seizure it is not in control of its body so it may bite, urinate, defaecate and drool abnormally.
6. DO NOT try to open mouth or place your fingers in mouth - during a seizure the jaw can clamp closed and you may get bitten or injured.
7. If you have been instructed to give medications per rectum (in the bottom) by your vet, do this as soon as you can.
8. Check their temperature (if at or above 40 degrees contact the vet ASAP).
9. Seizures over 4 minutes in length require emergency veterinary treatment.
10. Sit with them until they are able to walk normally, offer them small amounts of water.
- 11. Record the duration, time and date of the seizure so you can update your vet.**