



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR PET HAS A SEIZURE

Despite the frightening display, seizures are not painful. It may seem counterintuitive, but please DO NOT hold or touch your pet during an episode, unless they are in an unsafe environment. It will not help, and you run a high risk of being bitten or scratched accidentally.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY DOG IS HAVING A SEIZURE?

In a classic generalized seizure, all four limbs become stiff, and the animal falls over before convulsing. In partial or focal seizures, the pet will typically remain conscious and may only have abnormal movements of a single body part, like one limb or even just an ear.

THE MOST COMMON SIGNS OF SEIZURES IN DOGS ARE:



- Stiffening
- Collapsing
- Vocalizing
- Salivating
- Jaw clenching
- Muscle twitching
- Jerking body movements
- Paddling motions of limbs
- Chomping or tongue chewing
- Foaming at the mouth
- Loss of consciousness
- Involuntary defecating or urinating



WHAT TO DO DURING AN EPISODE:

1. Prevent your pet from falling off furniture or down stairs
2. Protect your pet from hurting itself on anything in the area
3. Time the seizure
4. Record a video of the event if possible
5. Call your vet
(Follow post seizure protocols as recommended by your neurologist.)

You do not need to call your veterinarian every time your pet has a seizure, but when your pet has a seizure for the first time or begins having seizures more frequently than usual, you should definitely contact your veterinarian.

WHEN A SEIZURE IS AN EMERGENCY:

1. A seizure lasts more than three minutes
2. Your pet has more than two seizures in 24 hours
3. Your pet has been poisoned
4. When they have a seizure secondary to head trauma/injury

In case of emergency, get your pet to a veterinary facility immediately. DO NOT wait for a seizure lasting more than three minutes to end. The longer a seizure lasts, the higher the risk of serious and potentially fatal complications.

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

Seizures can be symptoms of a bigger/serious problem. Only a veterinary neurologist will be able to pinpoint the root cause of your pet's seizures in order to determine the most effective treatment plan. This is going to lead to the best possible outcome for your pet – and you. If you have any questions or need any help, compassionate experts at Southeast Veterinary Neurology are standing by 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Reach out today!

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