

Dog CPR, First Aid & Safety for Pet Professionals & Dedicated Owners

Seizures

Seizures are temporary, involuntary disturbances in normal brain function, usually causing uncontrollable muscle activity or “convulsions.”

Seizures can have many causes: Central nervous system-related seizures may be caused by a tumor, abscess, scar tissue, or infection within the brain. Causes outside the central nervous system include poisoning, blood sugar-related emergencies, epilepsy, organ failure and more.

First Aid for Seizures

- **Create a safe, quiet environment.** Move furniture or other sharp/hard objects away from dog. Ensure dog is in a safe location (away from top of staircase, balcony, etc). If possible, dim lights, reduce noise and don't talk to dog.
- **Time the seizure.** Use the watch or stopwatch on your smartphone, or quietly count how long active (twitching/convulsions) phase of the seizure lasts.
- **Do not disturb or interfere with dog.** Let the seizure and post-seizure after-effects “play out.” Don't put your hands near dog's mouth or try to handle/touch the dog. Understand that during and after a seizure, the dog may not recognize you, and may attempt to bite if startled or confused.
- **Call vet asap IF: If this is dog's first seizure, the seizure lasts more than two minutes, or dog has multiple seizures in a row, this is an emergency. Call your vet right away.**

SIGNS OF SEIZURE

PRE-SEIZURE

- Dog may appear anxious, confused or dazed.
- May seem “clingy” or insecure, seeking comfort from owner.
- May seek a safe, private place.

DURING ACTIVE SEIZURE

- Dog may fall over, twitch, drool, urinate and/or defecate.
- Limbs or body may become stiff or rigid.
- Some dogs don't fall over, but instead appear to be staring off into space, or biting at the air (“chewing gum” seizures).

POST-SEIZURE

- Dog may appear disoriented and not recognize you.
- May bump into walls or appear blind.
- Some dogs may behave normally immediately following an active seizure.

*For dog's with a history of seizures, keep a log of your dog's seizure activity including date, time of day, duration of active seizure, time before/after meals and other pertinent information.

