

TWEED VETERINARY SERVICES

Seizure History Questions - Dogs and Cats

Owner: _____ Client: _____ Patient: _____

Breed: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____ Weight: _____ Date: _____

When was the first seizure? _____

What does the seizure look like from start to finish? _____

Can the owner obtain a video? Yes No

Does the seizure affect all the body at once? Yes No

If certain parts are affected, please elaborate: _____

Do all the seizures look similar and if not, how do they differ? _____

Are there any autonomic signs? _____

How long does ictus last? _____

How long does the animal take to recover and what signs does it have?

What time of day do the seizures occur? _____

Does anything trigger the seizures? _____

Does the dog lose consciousness/ is the dog aware? _____

Is the dog normal in between seizures? _____

How many seizures in an event? _____

Any previous injury? _____

Diet: _____

Faecal consistency and frequency: _____

Other systemic signs, medical or surgical history, treatment? _____

Vaccination and worming history: _____

When to Begin Treatment

In 2016, the American College of Veterinary Internal medicine published a consensus statement on this very subject. If the dog fits into any of these criteria, medication to suppress seizures should be initiated: When seizures occur in "clusters," that is, more than 3 seizures within a 24hour period.

- 1) When two or more isolated seizures occur within a six month period.
- 2) If a seizure has lasted 5 minutes or more.
- 3) If the seizures or their post-ictal disorientation periods are particularly severe.
- 4) If the dog has a visible structural lesion on a CT, MRI or even a radiograph.
- 5) If the dog has a history of brain injury or trauma.
- 6) It should be noted that the German Shepherd dog, Border collie, Australian shepherd, Golden retriever, Irish setter, and Saint Bernard breeds are notorious for difficulty in seizure control. It is best not to wait for frequent seizures in these cases as each seizure makes the next more difficult to control. Often medication is started in these individuals after the first seizure. The more seizures the patient experiences, the more difficult control becomes in the future.