

VetterCare
Expert Pet Care. At Home.

A FREE KIT FOR FAMILIES OF DOGS WITH SEIZURES

Dog Seizure Log Kit

Your vet decides the treatment. This kit helps you do your part: stay calm during a seizure, write down what happened, give medication on schedule, and hand off your dog's care with confidence, whoever is giving it.

General information to use with your veterinarian. Not medical advice.

1 Seizure log

2 What to do during a seizure

3 Medication schedule

4 Signs to call your vet

5 Care handoff sheet

6 Questions for your vet

STEP 1 · ONE LINE PER SEIZURE

Seizure log

Bring this to every visit. Your vet uses how often seizures happen, and their pattern, to adjust treatment. It's a record for you and your vet, not a guide to changing treatment. Merck Veterinary Manual

Date	Time	How long min / sec	Before what was your dog doing?	What it looked like shaking, paddling, staring, twitching…	After how long until normal?	Video? yes / no	Notes toxin? missed dose? vet called?

Time each seizure and take a video if you can. Note what your dog was doing before and whether a toxin could be involved. After a seizure, dogs can be confused or wobbly for minutes to hours. (Cornell; Texas A&M; VetSpecialists.com) Print as many copies as you need.

STEP 2 · KEEP THIS ON THE FRIDGE

What to do during a seizure

Most seizures stop on their own, usually in less than two minutes. Your job is to keep your dog and yourself safe, and to watch. Illinois; Texas A&M

1. **Stay calm.** Cornell; Texas A&M
2. **Start timing.** Take a video if you can; it helps your vet. Cornell; VetSpecialists.com
3. **Don't restrain your dog.** Only if your dog could fall, from a couch or near stairs, move them carefully to a safer spot. Texas A&M
4. **Clear the space** of toys, breakable things and ledges. Cornell; Texas A&M
5. **Hands away from the mouth and face.** Dogs can't choke on their tongues, and a seizing dog can bite. Texas A&M; Illinois
6. **Don't hug your dog or stroke the head.** Your dog isn't aware of you and isn't in control. Cornell
7. **Keep children away.** Even a gentle dog may be fearful or aggressive just before or after. Texas A&M
8. **Watch from a short distance** until your dog acts normal again. Texas A&M
9. **Write it down** in the seizure log: how long, what happened before, any possible toxin. Texas A&M

Seizure longer than 3–4 minutes, one after another, or more than two in 24 hours? Go to your vet or the nearest emergency animal hospital now. See page 4.

MY VET'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SEIZURE AT HOME

Home medication for a seizure ☐ none prescribed ☐ yes, as my vet showed me: _____

Go to the emergency hospital if a seizure lasts longer than _____

STEP 3 · EVERY DOSE, AS PRESCRIBED

Medication schedule

Ask your vet to go through each blank with you. Give medication exactly as prescribed and don't change a dose or stop a medication without your vet: stopping some seizure medications suddenly can cause severe withdrawal seizures. VetSpecialists.com; Merck Veterinary Manual

Medication (name on the label)	Amount, as prescribed	Times of day	With food?	Refill by

If a dose is missed or late, my vet says _____

Next blood test _____ Next recheck _____

DOSES GIVEN · CHECK EACH BOX WHEN GIVEN

Medication + time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Sleepiness and wobbliness are common side effects and often fade as dogs adjust. Some medications can increase thirst, urination and appetite. Regular blood tests let your vet adjust the plan. Tell your vet what you notice. (VetSpecialists.com; Merck Veterinary Manual)

STEP 4 · KEEP THIS ON THE FRIDGE

Signs to call your vet

CALL YOUR VET RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR DOG

- Has a seizure lasting more than 3 to 4 minutes
- Has a seizure lasting more than 5 minutes (an emergency)
- Has one seizure after another without returning to normal
- Has two or more seizures in one day
- Has more than two seizures in 24 hours
- Isn't back to normal within 1 to 2 hours
- May have eaten something toxic

A seizure lasting more than 5 minutes is called status epilepticus. It is life-threatening and needs emergency treatment. If it stops on the way, your dog still needs an exam.

Cornell Riney Canine Health Center; ACVIM consensus statement; VetSpecialists.com; Texas A&M; University of Illinois

ALSO WORTH TELLING YOUR VET

- A first seizure, once your dog has recovered
- Side effects of medication

After a first seizure, schedule an exam once your dog has recovered. A single short, typical seizure in a dog with epilepsy is usually not an emergency; ask your vet what counts as typical for your dog. (Cornell; Texas A&M)

TOXINS THAT CAN CAUSE SEIZURES · KEEP OUT OF REACH (Cornell; Texas A&M)

- Chocolate
- Caffeine
- Xylitol or birch sugar
- Antifreeze
- Rat poison
- Liquor
- Pesticides

If your dog is experiencing an emergency, please contact your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital right away.

Our vet's phone _____ Emergency hospital phone _____

STEP 5 · FOR ANYONE CARING FOR YOUR DOG

Care handoff sheet

Dog's name _____ Weight _____ Age _____

Our vet _____ Phone _____

Emergency hospital _____ Phone _____

My phone while I'm away _____

Medication (name on the label)	Amount, as prescribed	Times	Given with food?

MY DOG'S SEIZURES

What a typical seizure looks like _____

Usually lasts _____ Last seizure (date) _____

Afterward my dog usually _____

Known triggers _____

Home seizure medication ☐ none ☐ yes, where it's kept: _____

SAFETY AT HOME

No swimming ☐ pool or water blocked Stairs ☐ blocked ☐ allowed

Food + amount _____ Times _____

ASK YOUR VET, AND WRITE THEIR ANSWER HERE

After how many minutes should my caregiver go to the emergency hospital?

_____

If a dose is missed or late, what should happen?

_____

Use page 2 during a seizure and page 1 to log it. Dogs with epilepsy shouldn't swim, because of the risk of drowning. (VetSpecialists.com)

STEP 6 · BRING THIS TO YOUR NEXT VISIT

Questions for your vet

1. What do you think is causing my dog's seizures, and which tests do you recommend?
2. Does my dog need medication now, or should we keep a log first?
3. How long should a seizure last before I go to the emergency hospital?
4. Should I have a medication to give at home during a seizure? How do I use it?
5. What should I do if a dose is missed or late?
6. Which side effects should I watch for?
7. When are the blood tests to check the medication?
8. Is a prescription diet right for my dog?
9. Should we see a veterinary neurologist?

Sources. Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Riney Canine Health Center, "Managing seizures" · American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), consensus statements on seizure management in dogs (2016) and on status epilepticus and cluster seizures (2024), Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine · VetSpecialists.com (ACVIM), "Idiopathic Epilepsy | Seizures in Dogs and Cats" · Merck Veterinary Manual, "Epilepsy in Small Animals" and "Anticonvulsants for Treatment of Animals" · Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Pet Talk ("What To Do If A Pet Is Having A Seizure," "Understanding The Complexity Of Seizures," "Seizures in Dogs") · University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, "Navigating the Unknown: Seizures in Pets."



NEED TO TRAVEL?

A veterinary professional can keep the schedule at home.

Seizures don't plan around trips. A VetterCare veterinary professional can give your dog's seizure medication on your veterinarian's exact schedule and keep the seizure log while you're away, following your veterinarian's written instructions. Your dog stays home, in a calm and familiar routine. You get photo updates while you're away, and you meet your veterinary professional in person before you leave.

vettercare.com

(844) 697-3871

In-home care across Greater Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott and Dallas–Fort Worth.

VetterCare gathers this information from published veterinary sources. It is general information, not veterinary advice, and doesn't replace an exam by your veterinarian. VetterCare veterinary professionals follow your veterinarian's instructions. If your pet is experiencing an emergency, contact your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital right away.

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