Treatment For Canine Epilepsy

If your dog starts having seizures it is important to get him in for an evaluation by a veterinarian as soon as possible. There is a very good chance that if your dog suffers from seizure the vet will diagnose the issue as being epilepsy, this article will explain some methods you can use to help treat this problem. First you must realize that epilepsy is not the only reason for dog seizures. For example, certain kinds of brain tumors or an injury to the dog’s brain can cause seizures, as can certain toxins in the environment. If these are the reasons for your dogs epilepsy then the following treatments will not help in the slightest.

The purpose of this article is to explore treatment options so that you will have a better understanding of them once your veterinarian has determined that the cause of your dog’s seizures is epilepsy. In many cases of epilepsy, no treatment will be necessary unless the seizures happen at a minimum of once a month. Treatment of seizures will not completely cure the problem, it will simply lessen the amount of times your dog has seizures, so bear that in mind when you are treating your dog and seizures continue, do not get disheartened.

The first line of treatment options with canine epilepsy is usually anti-epileptic drugs (AED’s). Potassium and Phenobarbitol are the most commonly prescribed anti-epileptic drugs, and are used either together or independently of each other. If your dog suffers from seizures that last longer than 5 minutes, or seizures that are quickly followed by more seizures then you may be prescribed Diazepam. In my research for this article I was surprised to find that Primidone is still on the list of potential treatment options; however, because of the high concentration of liver enzymes that have been reported and other side effects such as lethargy and excessive hunger and thirst, I was always told that this drug should never be considered, and I knew it by the nickname of "Primadon’t” among my fellow owners of epileptic dogs. Recent studies indicate that Neurontin can also be a useful for helping your dog cope with its epilepsy, it is also known as Gabapentin. But caution is needed as AED’s elevate enzymes in the liver, so if your dog is using one of these medications, he will need to have regular chemistry panels done to ensure no liver damage is occurring.

There are alternative treatments you can try such as acupuncture and gold bead implants, this is where gold beads are placed inside the acupuncture areas. To avoid unwanted side effects, it’s better to try acupuncture before trying any AED’s, and you should avoid the use of gold bead implants only if all other treatments have failed.

Vitamins, Diet and Homeopathy Diet can have a big impact upon a dogs epilepsy, most dog foods are crammed full of chemicals, additives, preservatives and flavoring. Preservatives have been known to cause seizures in dogs that have a lower seizure threshold, and should be eliminated completely from their diets. Feeding your dog fresh food, including green leafy vegetables, may actually stop seizures in a dog that has a sensitivity to preservatives. You should certainly seek the advice of a holistic vet in order to help your dog have the best possible diet and homeopathic treatments. Giving your dog bottled water is also a good idea, since many cities have fluoridated water systems.

Ice Cream and Rescue Remedy You can pick up ‘Rescue Remedy’ in most health stores, you should add 4 drops of this to your dogs mouth when a seizure starts, it can help lessen the seizure dramatically. Another great idea is to give your dog some preservative free vanilla ice cream once the seizure has finished, dogs are only small and a seizure can be hard on their body, giving them some ice cream afterwards helps bring their blood sugar levels back up. My dog got to where he would go to the refrigerator after his seizures and look happily up at the freezer, wagging his tail expectantly.