



# WHAT TO DO

## *When Your Dog is Having a Seizure.*

It's common to feel powerless and afraid when your dog is having a seizure. That's why it's important to develop a plan for managing your dog's seizures in partnership with your veterinarian. Here are some basic tips for dealing with seizures when they occur:

### IF YOU SUSPECT A SEIZURE COMING ON



**Keep calm and move your pet to a safe area where they won't hurt themselves.**

Do what you can to reduce stimuli (i.e., turning off the TV, dimming the lights, or removing other animals from the vicinity).

### WHAT TO DO WHEN A SEIZURE OCCURS



**Take a deep breath.** Your pet is unconscious during a seizure so try to stay calm and **make a note of when the seizure begins** in a seizure log or diary when possible.



**Video the seizure if possible.** Your veterinarian will use this information to help manage your dog's condition more effectively.



**Keep away from your dog's mouth to avoid being bitten.** Do not insert any objects into their mouth. Unlike humans, dogs will not choke on their tongues during a seizure.



**Stay nearby to monitor your pet's condition but stay hands-off.** Touching or petting a dog while they're seizing puts you at risk of being bitten.



**Monitor how long the seizure lasts.** For seizures lasting longer than 5 minutes, contact your veterinarian immediately, or take your pet to an emergency animal health center if after hours.



**Allow your dog to recover at home** after their seizure, if possible.

### SEIZURE VOCABULARY FOR PET OWNERS

#### GENERALIZED SEIZURE

This is the most common type of seizure, caused by abnormal electrical activity throughout the brain. It may involve convulsions and loss of consciousness and can last from several seconds to a few minutes.

#### FOCAL SEIZURE

This is a less severe type of seizure that may develop into generalized seizures. The abnormal electrical activity only happens on one side of the brain and may only affect one of your dog's limbs, or one side of the body. They may still be conscious.

#### PSYCHOMOTOR SEIZURE

Also known as "fly snapping," a psychomotor seizure or hallucination involves strange behavior that typically happens for a few minutes, like repeatedly biting at the air. Your dog will exhibit the same behaviors each time a seizure occurs.