

Epilepsy Medications

General Information

Medication for epilepsy is not given to cure but rather to control the disease. Successful therapy is measured by the ability to decrease the frequency, duration and severity of individual seizures.

Important Points in Treatment

1. Treatment of epilepsy is usually not begun unless multiple seizures occur and until a pattern is observed and other causes of seizures are ruled out.
2. Many epileptic dogs become worse if seizures are not treated.
3. Even animals with well-controlled seizures may have an occasional mild seizure. Record the dates and nature of all seizures.
4. Discontinuance or “skipping” of a treatment may cause a seizure.
5. Medication may have to be given several days before it becomes effective.
6. Medication must be given 1 to 4 times daily, depending on the individual case. The dosage is adjusted until the smallest effective amount is found.
7. Determination of your pet’s dosage may take weeks or months. Proper dosage is determined by the effect of the medication on your pet’s seizure. Prevention of all seizures is the desired goal.
8. Medication is often required for the remainder of the pet’s life.
9. Frequently, more than one medication is necessary.
10. Do not become discouraged if a seizure occurs. Call the doctor to discuss changes in dosage or medication.

Recommendations: _____

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur

- Your pet’s seizures recur.
- Your pet’s behavior, attitude or general health change.