



TREMAIN VETERINARY GROUP

Treating your pet like one of the family

Advice Note 5.0

EPILEPSY

What is a **fit and what do we do?**

A seizure (also known as a fit) will occur when a cat or dog has abnormal hyperactivity within the brain. There may or may not be an underlying cause; as part of the investigation we will take a blood sample to try and identify a primary disease.

Seizures may be short (1-2 minutes) and infrequent (3-4 times a year) and in this instance we may not elect to give anti seizure drugs. If seizures are more frequent, such as more than once a month, anti seizure drugs (usually phenobarbitone) may be dispensed.

Occasionally a patient will have a prolonged seizure lasting more than 30 minutes (status epilepticus). This is an emergency and hospitalisation and intensive treatment is necessary.

What do you do if your pets has a seizure?

If your pet has a seizure ensure that they cannot injure themselves, turn off the lights, darken the room and turn off the television or radio. If the seizure lasts more than 2 minutes seek veterinary advice.

What does treatment involve?

Patients on long term medication for epilepsy will need to be seen for regular check ups (minimal every 6 months) as the anti seizure drugs are available on prescription only. During these visits we recommend a blood sample to assess phenobarbitone levels (12 hours after the last tablet) and a blood sample to assess liver function to ensure the medication is not having and adverse effect on the liver.