

EPILEPSY IN GREYHOUNDS

What is epilepsy?

Epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes recurring seizures due to abnormal electrical activity in the brain. While seizures can look frightening, many dogs with epilepsy live happy, normal lives with the help of medication and regular veterinary care.

Your veterinarian will develop an individual treatment and monitoring plan for your dog.

What a seizure may look like

Seizures can vary but commonly include:

- collapsing or falling over
- stiffening of the body
- jerking or paddling of the legs
- drooling or foaming at the mouth
- loss of bladder or bowel control
- temporary confusion or restlessness afterwards.

Most seizures last between 30 seconds and 2 minutes. After a seizure, dogs often experience a recovery phase where they may appear confused, restless, tired, or temporarily unsteady. This usually resolves within minutes to a few hours.

Signs a seizure may be coming

Some dogs show warning signs before a seizure. Not all dogs will show these, but common pre-seizure behaviours include:

- restlessness or pacing
- clingy behaviour or seeking reassurance
- whining or unusual vocalisation
- staring into space
- appearing anxious or unsettled
- hiding or trying to stay close to their owner.

These signs can occur minutes to hours before a seizure.

If you notice these behaviours regularly before seizures, they can help you prepare a calm, safe space for your dog.



What to do during a seizure

It is important to stay calm and keep your greyhound safe. Most seizures will stop on their own.

Do:

- move objects away to prevent injury
- dim lights and reduce noise
- time the seizure if possible
- allow your dog space to recover afterwards
- speak calmly once the seizure has passed.

Do not:

- put your hands near your dog's mouth
- try to hold their tongue
- restrain them during the seizure.

When to seek urgent veterinary help

Contact a vet immediately if:

- a seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes
- multiple seizures occur close together
- your dog has several seizures in a day
- your dog does not recover normally
- your dog is injured during a seizure.

These situations can become medical emergencies.

Ongoing care

Dogs with epilepsy usually require lifelong management which may include:

- daily medication given at consistent times
- regular veterinary check-ups
- periodic blood tests to monitor medication levels
- tracking seizures in a log or diary.

Never stop epilepsy medication suddenly unless directed by your veterinarian.

Living with a dog with epilepsy

Many dogs with epilepsy live full and happy lives. With a consistent routine, appropriate medication, and veterinary support, seizures can often be well managed. Your dog can still enjoy walks, playtime, and being a loved member of the family.

If you ever have concerns about your dog's seizures or medication, contact your veterinarian for advice.

