

WHAT IS A SEIZURE?

A **seizure** is a sudden uncontrolled rapid release of electrical activity in the brain.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF SEIZURES?

Seizures can manifest as focal facial twitching, biting at the air or “fly biting,” unconsciousness with paddling of the legs or jaw snapping/chomping. Pets can even appear to just “faint.” This manifestation is known as the “ictal” period. There is a pre- and post-ictal period as well. Typically, the pre-ictal or time before the seizure goes unnoticed but in the post-ictal period pets can appear disoriented, lethargic or even appear to be blind.

WHAT CAUSES SEIZURES?

Seizures are the result of disease within the brain (**intracranial**) or outside the brain (**extracranial**).

HOW CAN SEIZURES BE DIAGNOSED?

To differentiate between intracranial and extracranial disease, pets will typically have bloodwork performed and sometimes radiographs or ultrasounds of their belly and chest.

HOW ARE SEIZURES TREATED?

If it is determined that a pet has intracranial disease, diagnostics include infectious disease testing, imaging of the brain in the form of a CT scan or MRI and spinal fluid analysis. Treatment of seizures largely centers around the underlying cause and can sometimes require life-long therapy.