

## 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.