

IDIOPATHIC EPILEPSY FACTS

- 1. Usually diagnosed by ruling out other possibilities.**
- 2. Often hereditary—these pets should not be bred.**
- 3. Usually seizures begin between six months of age and five years of age.**
- 4. Often initially show as only as a period of weakness or unawareness.**
- 5. TREATMENT:**
 - A.** Not recommended if seizures are four to six weeks apart or longer.
 - B. Medication:**
 1. Will be required twice daily.
 2. May require a combination of drugs.
 - C.** There is no **cure** -- only attempt to control seizure.
 - D.** It takes time to get seizure medication regulated properly--be patient!
 - E.** Medication may become ineffective after a period of time requiring altered dosages or different medications. Medications sometimes will not control seizures effectively.
 - F.** Liver Function Tests are necessary every six months while on medication since drugs can be detrimental to the liver.
- 6. If your pet has a seizure you should:**
 - A.** Remain calm.
 - B. Do NOT** put your hand into your pet's mouth.
 - C.** Be sure the dog is in environment where he will not harm itself. Remove nearby sharp objects and water.
 - D.** Observe your pet closely and call the clinic if the actual seizure is still continuing after 10 minutes.
 - E.** Call the clinic for medication adjustment if the pet is on preventive medication.