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Your pet appears to be having a SEIZURE! What should you do?

Seizures can occur for many reasons, including head trauma, poisoning, infections, tumors, liver disease, kidney failure, blood glucose and electrolyte abnormalities, and epilepsy. A "focal" seizure may manifest mild neurologic abnormalities in only one area of the body, whereas a "generalized" seizure usually appears as uncontrollable twitching all over the body, often accompanied by loss of bowel and bladder control. Seizures may last for a few seconds or several hours. The longer a seizure lasts, the more harmful it can be to the pet, potentially causing permanent neurological damage, overheating, exhaustion and dehydration.

- Keep your pet away from any objects (including furniture, stairwells, sharp objects) that might hurt it. Place blankets or cushions around the pet to prevent it from causing trauma to itself unintentionally.
- Do not try to restrain the pet.
- Do not attempt to grasp the tongue. The risk of being severely bitten is greater than the risk of the animal choking.
- Time the length of the seizure episode. Seizures lasting more than 5 minutes may become life threatening.
- If the seizure episode lasts more than a few minutes, transport it in a blanket for emergency veterinary care.
- If the seizure is a short one and the pet recovers quickly, place the pet in a dark and quiet room and offer it a moderate amount of food and water after the pet appears to have returned completely back to normal.
- Contact your veterinarian for advice on the necessary steps to take from there.

Veterinary Care Following a Seizure: To determine the cause of the seizure, your veterinarian will recommend a complete physical examination and neurological exam, blood chemistry evaluation and complete blood count, testing for local infectious diseases (such as Valley Fever and Tick Fever), and possibly referral to a Veterinary Neurologist. The veterinarian may recommend treatment of the seizure with medications, or waiting to see if future seizures occur.