

CONSERVATIVE CARE FOR BRAIN DISEASE

by Dr. Carrie Journey DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

SUMMARY:

- 1) Alert your veterinarian if any new symptoms arise.
- 2) Give medications as directed
- 3) If more than 2 seizures in 24 hours, a seizure longer than 5 minutes, unable to rise or unable to wake up seek emergency veterinary care.

EXPLANATION:

Your pet has symptoms that are concerning for brain disease. Without further testing (i.e. a MRI, spinal tap, etc) we cannot tell you what exactly is causing these symptoms. Some common forms of brain disease include brain tumors, strokes, infections and auto-immune diseases.

At this point you have elected not to move forward with further diagnostics. Your veterinarian might start some medications to treat symptoms like seizures and/or brain swelling. We hope these treatments will make your pet feel better, but they may not cure the underlying condition. Given that we do not know exactly what is causing the symptoms it is difficult to know if they will be successful and if they are successful for how long.

Many people in your situation ask how long they will have before their pet dies for must be put down. Depending on the underlying condition, your pet could get entirely better or your pet's condition could unfortunately decline over the course of weeks or months. The range is incredibly variable and since we do not know the cause of your pet's disease it is difficult to predict.

SYMPTOMS OF BRAIN DISEASE

Please contact your veterinarian if your pet develops new symptoms or if existing symptoms seem to be getting worse. Symptoms include:

- 1) Seizures
- 2) Change in personality
- 3) Difficulty staying awake
- 4) Difficulty sleeping
- 5) Difficulty walking
- 6) Dizziness
- 7) Circling
- 8) Blindness
- 9) Difficulty eating, drinking or swallowing

MONITORING:

Regular monthly checkups are important to keep your veterinarian in the loop on how your pet is doing. During these appointments your pet will be examined to look for new symptoms, and you will discuss any adjustments to medications. Your veterinarian also may want to perform blood work and urinalysis to monitor for side effects of medications.



Journey Veterinary Neurology