

My Pet Is Having a Seizure

Family Matters

Watching your pet have a seizure is one of the most frightening experiences a pet guardian can face.

It often happens without warning.

Your pet may fall over, paddle their legs, become stiff, drool, lose control of their bladder or bowels, or appear unconscious.

It can feel like it lasts forever.

The good news is that **most seizures are over within one to three minutes**, even though they may feel much longer.

At Amity, we believe that knowing what to do during a seizure helps both you and your pet. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you stay calm when your pet needs you most.

What Is a Seizure?

A seizure is caused by abnormal electrical activity within the brain.

There are many possible causes, including:

- Epilepsy.
- Liver disease.
- Kidney disease.
- Low blood sugar.
- Brain tumours.
- Poisoning.
- Head injuries.
- Inflammation or infection affecting the brain.

A seizure itself is **not a diagnosis**. It's a symptom that tells us something has affected the brain.

What Should I Do?

The most important thing is to **stay calm**.

Your pet is unconscious and unaware of what is happening.

Keep them safe by:

- Moving furniture or objects they could injure themselves on.
- Keeping children and other pets away.
- Dimming the lights if possible.
- Timing the seizure with your phone.
- Recording a video if it is safe to do so.

A video is often one of the most valuable diagnostic tools we have.

Should I Put Something in Their Mouth?

No.

Pets cannot swallow their tongue during a seizure.

Trying to hold the tongue or place something in the mouth may result in you being bitten accidentally, as your pet has no control over their jaw movements.

Simply keep your hands away from their mouth and allow the seizure to run its course safely.

When Is It an Emergency?

Contact a vet immediately if:

- The seizure lasts **more than five minutes**.
- Your pet has **more than one seizure within 24 hours**.
- They do not recover normally between seizures.
- It is their **first ever seizure**.
- They have difficulty breathing or remain unconscious afterwards.

Prolonged seizures can cause dangerously high body temperatures and ongoing brain injury, requiring emergency treatment.

What Happens Afterwards?

Most pets enter a recovery phase called the **post-ictal period**.

They may appear confused, restless, temporarily blind, hungry or very tired.

This can last from a few minutes to several hours.

Keep your pet somewhere quiet and safe until they have fully recovered.

How Will My Vet Investigate It?

The first seizure is often the beginning of an investigation rather than the end of one.

Depending on your pet's age, history and examination findings, we may recommend:

- Blood tests.
- Blood pressure measurement.
- Urine tests.
- Advanced imaging such as MRI.
- Referral to a veterinary neurologist.

These tests help us identify whether epilepsy or another underlying condition is responsible.

Most Pets Can Live Happy Lives

Many pets with epilepsy or other seizure disorders continue to enjoy an excellent quality of life.

Some require medication.

Others may never have another seizure.

At Amity, we'll work with you to understand the cause, explain your options and create a treatment plan tailored to your pet.

Because a seizure is frightening.

But with knowledge, preparation and the right support, it doesn't have to define your pet's future.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.