
Nicole Songstad (159480) | Ralphie | Canine (Schnauzer, Miniature) | Gray | M: N | 13y 1m (06/05/2010)

Diagnostic Workup: Neurological Recheck Exam**Diagnosis:** mild T3-L3 myelopathy; possible mild vestibular dysfunction; seizure-like episodes**Medications:**

- **Levetiracetam 250mg tablets:** Give 3/4 tablet by mouth every 8 hours. This is a new medication; it is an anticonvulsant. Do NOT discontinue without veterinary direction.
- **SAM-e:** Continue as directed on package, as neuro-protective supplement.
- **Galliprant 20mg tablet:** Continue to give 1/2 tablet by mouth every 24 hours.
- **Amitriptyline 10mg tablet:** Continue to give 1.5 tablets by mouth every 12 hours.
- **Apoquel 3.6mg tablet:** Continue to give 1 tablet by mouth every 24 hours.
- **Gabapentin 100mg capsule:** Continue to give 1 capsule by mouth every 12 hours.
- **Ursodiol 300mg quad-tablet:** Continue to give 1/4 tablet by mouth every 12 hours.

****Medication refill requests are processed Monday through Friday 8a-5p and can take up to 48 hours to process.****

- Thank you for bringing Ralphie in to see us today! The mild head tilt and slight balance issue has not progressed but please continue to monitor for progression including veering to his right, stumbling, nystagmus, worsening of head tilt. Please call us if you witness any of these signs.

- Thank you for bringing in video of Ralphie's episodes. The video shows abrupt and transient episodes of loss of balance, and twitching or bouncing with a quick recovery. He will stop what he is doing temporarily. We have concerns that this could be seizure activity. We will start him on a levetiracetam trial to see if this affects the frequency of these episodes. If the episodes reduce in frequency by 50%, we would consider it a response and supportive of the episodes being seizures. An MRI may be the next step depending upon your wishes.

- Please log all seizure activity. For each seizure event, it is important to note the date, time, length of seizure, what he did during the seizure, and how long he was abnormal after the seizure. Please bring this log to every appointment.

- It is fairly normal for animals to be slightly disoriented and blind for several hours after a seizure. If these signs persist beyond the normal post-ictal phase, please contact a veterinarian.

- When anticonvulsants are first started or doses are adjusted, some mild sedation and weakness can be noted and can last up to 3 weeks. You should note small improvements each day until he has returned to his normal self. If these signs continue beyond that time or the signs noted are severe, please contact our office.

- Anticonvulsants can cause pets to drink, urinate, and eat more. In general, these are not serious concerns but are certainly important to note. It is important to monitor his weight as he could gain unnecessary weight if fed unlimitedly or fed a high energy food. We recommend reducing his treat intake, dividing his meals into smaller, more frequent meals while maintain the same total daily intake, and utilizing appropriate fruits and veggies as treats and fillers when

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possible. Please give us a call if you are overly concerned about these signs.

- Seizures can become an emergent situation when the seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes, if Ralphie has more than 2 seizures within a 30-minute period, or more than 5 seizures within a 24-hour period. If this happens, please contact our office for direction on how to proceed or bring Ralphie in to your nearest veterinarian.
- Our goal with seizure management is to decrease the frequency, duration, and severity of the seizures. We DO NOT expect the seizures to stop completely. However, this does happen on occasion.
- Please monitor Ralphie for signs of recurrent or progressive neurologic disease including: balance loss, wobbliness, stumbling, scuffing and/or dragging of the feet, tremors, twitching, seizures, pacing, circling, wandering aimlessly, getting stuck in corners or under furniture, sudden behavior changes, unexplained aggression, and disorientation. If you notice any new or worsening signs, please contact our office right away.
- We will call you next week to discuss Ralphie's response to the levetiracetam. Don't hesitate to call sooner if there are any concerns.

Clinician: Dr. Andrea Sangster DVM, MS, DACVIM (Neurology)