

print & put on fridge!

You have an Emergency with your IVDD Dog if:

■ YOUR DOG SHOWS SYMPTOMS LIKE:

- Crying, when eating or drinking
- Poor appetite due to pain
- Muscle spasms, & reluctance to move due to pain
- One or both front legs could be lame
- Crying and/or shaking
- Reluctance to move, jump or to go up/down stairs
- Tense abdomen
- Hunched appearance
- Paralysis to rear legs
- Loss of bladder and bowel control

It is very possibly a disc rupture. TAKE YOUR PET TO THE VET OR ER CLINIC NOW! This *can* heal with prompt treatment! "Putting to sleep" is not an option that needs be considered.

Discuss with vet: surgery or conservative treatment with crate rest with an anti-inflammatory plus pain relief meds, the need to express the bladder, acupuncture. Ask for a neuro examination, rule out an infection or other diseases that might mimic IVDD.

If the vet is not available, then crate your dog until you find one (but stressing that this is an emergency and medical care should be provided as soon as possible). The single most important care with a suspicion of a disc problem is 100% STRICT crate rest 24/7 only out at potty time, this is to protect the spinal cord.

If your dog shows any of these symptoms
**TAKE YOUR DOG TO YOUR VET OR
EMERGENCY CLINIC NOW!!!**

Your dog has an Emergency problem
and time does matter.

Web page: www.dodgerslist.com

List: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Dodgerslist>

■ REGRESSION OF PROGRESS

Your dog seems to be taking steps backwards in its progress. This could mean the herniation is worse or another disc has herniated. Treatment could go back to step one.

■ FEVER

Your dog develops a fever. This is a sign of an infection. If you do not have a thermometer, feel the dog's nose. If it is hot, dry or brittle, your dog possibly has a high fever and a serious infection.

■ INFECTIONS

Your dog develops a rash. This could be an allergic reaction to a med, or a staph infection (very common after use of steroids) which is contagious to humans.

Your dog's urine smells strongly, is dark, or appears bloody. This is an infection and needs to be addressed immediately.

■ LICKING & CHEWING

Your dog starts to lick and chew obsessively any part of its body. This is a sign of a nerve problem that could lead to the dog chewing off its paws, limbs, tails, or worse. Stop the dog immediately, put an Elizabethan Collar (cone collar) on the dog, and ask the vet about a drug called Neurontin (gabapentin). Never leave them unsupervised or without an E collar.

■ INCREASED PARALYSIS

Your dog's paralysis seems to be spreading or moving upwards, he has difficulty breathing, seems weaker. If any of this happens within the first week or 2 after the herniation, it could be a sign of myelomalacia: a lethal disease. Your dog's entire nervous system is shutting down slowly. Address this NOW.

■ GASTRO-INTESTINAL

Your dog is on steroids (prednisone, prednisolone, dexamethasone, etc.) and has lost its appetite, vomits or has diarrhea. This could be a sign of a gastric ulcer and can result in death. Remember to always give steroids with a gastric protector like Pepcid AC and to confirm the dose with the vet.

Your dog is on a NSAID (Rimadyl, metacam, etc.) and has lost its appetite, vomits or has diarrhea. This could be a sign of gastric ulcer or organ failure and can result in death.

Ask for a brochure regarding ALL your pet's drug interactions and side effects. Steroids and NSAIDs should never be given at same time. These drugs can take 4-7 days to clear from body. Mixing can them can be lethal.

■ PAIN

Yelping, trembling, not wanting to move much means pain relief meds need adjustment (dose, frequency or adding in another). Healing can't proceed until pain is under control dose to dose of pain meds. Tell your vet asap

Vet phone:



ER phone: