

print & put on fridge! You have an Emergency with your IVDD Dog if:

■ YOUR DOG SHOWS SYMPTOMS:

- Crying when eating or drinking
- Holds head high or nose to the ground
- Won't bear weight on front leg(s)
- Yelping, trembling, 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 episode.

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* plus *Pepcid AC*), the need to express the bladder, acupuncture.

If the vet is not available, crate your dog until you find one. This is an emergency. Medical care is needed for pain and to reduce spinal cord swelling. 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 damaged disc and the spinal cord from severe injury.

All Things IVDD website:

Care and Support Forum: dodgerslist.boards.net



■ REGRESSION of progress

More pain, walking is worse, can't pee on his own. This could mean the herniation has worsened or another disc has herniated. Treatment could go back to step one.

■ FEVER

Develops a fever? This is a sign of an infection.

Feel the dog's nose. If it is hot, dry or brittle. your dog possibly has a high fever and a serious infection (normal rectal temperature is 100.5 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit)

■ 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 strong, is dark, or appears bloody. This is an infection (UTI) 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. Immediately fold a towel length wise several times and secure closed around the neck to keep your dog from reaching his legs and get vet help. Neurontin (gabapentin) is the med that helps with this type of pain. Never leave them unsupervised or without an E-collar.

■ INCREASED PARALYSIS

Paralysis seems to be moving upwards, he has difficulty breathing, seems weaker, more painful than the initial disc pain. 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. Get vet help immediately!

■ GASTRO-INTESTINAL

Not eating, vomit, diarrhea, are red flag signs. These are serious signs of GI tract problems which

can quickly move to a life threatening situation, get with your vet ASAP about a 2nd stomach protector, Sucralfate, in addition to Pepcid AC (famotidine).

2 classes of anti-inflammatories

Steroids: prednisone, prednisolone, dexamethasone, etc. Steroids may not be abruptly stopped.

NSAIDs: Rimadyl, Metacam, Deramaxx, etc. FDA says stop the NSAID at once and get vet help.

Ask for a med info sheet & Google each of your pet's meds for 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). Pain should be in control in 1 hour and thereafter dose to dose. You are an integral part of the team, your vet depends on your observations so he can make needed med adjustments.