

## Epilepsy treatment with Epiphen

Initial investigations into the cause of seizures in dogs generally involves taking blood samples and in some cases these may need to be performed with your dog hospitalised for the day.

### Initial diagnosis

Pre treatment haematology and biochemistry including serum bile acids and electrolytes.

### After initiating treatment

Phenobarbitone concentration in the blood is measured 2 weeks after commencing treatment. Increases in dose may be required based on these results and on the response of your dog to the medication.

### Monitoring

Therapeutic phenobarbitone concentrations are monitored every 4 months to enable the lowest effective dose to be used. Blood samples are usually taken shortly before a tablet is due to determine the 'trough' or lowest level in the blood.

Haematology and biochemistry including serum bile acids and electrolytes should be performed every 4 months to monitor liver function.

It is essential that this protocol is adhered to in order to monitor the progress of the condition and to allow early detection of any side effects of the medication.

If your dog is receiving other medication to control the seizures in addition to Epiphen additional samples may be required.

**It is unlikely that an epileptic dog will ever be 'cured' and most will continue to have some seizures. However by careful use of medication the frequency of seizures can usually be reduced so that your dog is able to lead a happy and healthy life. Your dog will not be worrying about when their next seizure is going to strike he will be enjoying one day at a time, and as long as the good times outweigh the bad you can feel happy to do the same.**

