

Current Veterinary Clinical Trials

EPILEPSY

Assessing a New Treatment in Dogs

■ **Purpose**

- The purpose of this trial is to investigate the efficacy of a new device to determine when your dog is likely to have a seizure, thereby allowing us to treat preemptively.

■ **Participation Requirements**

- Dogs with epilepsy that are otherwise medically normal and neurologically stable between seizures:
 - Having at least 2 identifiable seizures per month (separated by 8 hours to 60 days) that are poorly controlled with any of the typical medications or treatment
 - That have shown resistance to at least two anti-epileptic drugs with therapeutic blood levels
 - Taking anti-epileptic drugs for the past 6 months prior to the study
- **Not eligible:** Dogs –
 - Having seizures because of another disease/condition (e.g., brain tumors)
 - That have had previous brain surgery
 - With other systemic diseases that could influence brain function
- To determine eligibility, we need a detailed history of your dog's seizure disorder and/or a log tracking your dog's seizure activity for the past 6-12 months, as well as recent bloodwork and urine analyses, thoracic radiographs, abdominal ultrasound and a MRI of the brain.

■ **Procedures**

- A repeat MRI of your dog's head
- Brain surgery to implant electrodes and a radio device under the skin near the shoulder blades
- CT scan of your dog's head after surgery to confirm correct electrode placement
- Recheck physical and neurological examinations and evaluation of device function every 2 months for up to 2 years



■ **Owner Responsibilities**

- Keep all scheduled visits for 2 years.
- Learn to care for and maintain the implanted device.
- Commit to recharging of the 'radio' and transmission of data into storage.
- Cover the costs of:
 - Diagnostics, treatment, or increased costs of hospitalization for unrelated illness that may develop during the 2 year course of the study;
 - Treatment and hospitalization of chronic breakthrough seizure episodes, during the 2 year course of the study, unless it is likely to be related directly to the implanted device
 - Complications from the implanted device over \$5,000; and,
 - Costs associated with the device after the study is completed.

■ **Benefits**

- Participation in this trial will help predict when your dog is going to have a seizure and treat the seizure preemptively. The number and severity of the seizures may be noticeably reduced while participating in the trial.
- The study will cover:
 - The surgical procedure, routine follow-up care and medications up to 5 days, associated laboratory data, MR/CT imaging associated with implant placement, CSF collection and analysis;
 - All implanted devices;
 - Recheck exams every 2 months for 2 years; and,
 - Complications associated with the procedure up to \$5,000.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Dr. Beverly Sturges

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Beverly Sturges

bksturges@ucdavis.edu

(530) 752 - 7545 • (530) 752 - 1393

Chelsea Crowe

cmcrowe@ucdavis.edu

(530) 752-7267 • (916) 385 - 8658

www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clinicaltrials/