

The Use of Accelerometry to Detect Seizure Activity in Dogs with Idiopathic Epilepsy Recruiting for Patients: 10/15/2015 thru 04/30/2018



Morris Animal Foundation has recently awarded veterinary neurologist Karen R. Munana, DVM, DACVIM, with a 3 year grant to study the "*Use of Accelerometry to Detect Seizure Activity in Dogs with Idiopathic Epilepsy.*"

Epilepsy is a common problem in dogs that typically requires lifelong medical attention. However, the majority of dogs do not become seizure free with treatment, and a consistent source of worry for caregivers is the risk of seizures occurring while a dog is left unattended. This study will evaluate the use of a commercially available, collar mounted accelerometer (Whistle Activity Monitor®) to reliably detect seizure activity in epileptic dogs. The availability of an easily worn, inexpensive device to detect seizures will provide valuable data to help veterinarians make informed treatment decisions, and reduce the risk of injury or death from unobserved seizures for their canine patients.

Recruitment Criteria:

- Dogs with idiopathic epilepsy that are experiencing an average 3 or more generalized seizures per month despite appropriate treatment
- Age at onset of seizures - 6 months to 6 years, with a 1 year documented history of seizures
- Owners must have access to a Smartphone and wireless internet in their home
- Owners must be willing to travel to NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine for 3 study-related visits over a 6 month period.

Patient/Owner benefits:

- Physical and neurological examination for their dog at no cost
- Bloodwork and urinalysis at no cost, to exclude an underlying cause for the seizures if not already performed in the past.
- Use of the Whistle activity monitor and home video monitoring system for the 6 month study period

Website: go.ncsu.edu/epilepsyresearch