



This case report demonstrates the usefulness of PURINA® PRO PLAN® VETERINARY DIETS NC NeuroCare in the nutritional management of Brain function in dogs.

Case report of an epileptic dog fed with Purina® Pro Plan® Veterinary Diets Canine NC NeuroCare™

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Fiji is a spayed female 7-year-old Cane Corso who was brought in for her annual booster vaccination. She lives in the countryside in a house with a garden to which she has unlimited access. However, she spends most of her time indoors.

Introduction

She is a quite dog, and has been on treatment since the age of 2 for her epilepsy, with seizures that were severe and frequent (several times a day). Epilepsy was diagnosed on the basis of clinical manifestations after carrying out laboratory tests to rule out some possible metabolic causes. The owner preferred not to do the brain scan to Fiji.

Treatment combining phenobarbital (170 mg/day) and two daily doses of potassium bromide (1 g/day) was rapidly undertaken. This treatment did not prove very effective however, despite serum phenobarbital and bromide levels being within the therapeutic range. As a result, the dog had levetiracetam added to this therapy at a dosage of 625 mg/day divided into 2 doses. This combination of medications has successfully reduced the frequency of seizures in the past 5 years. She is now having one series a month, involving 4 to 5 successive seizures each lasting 2 minutes. The owner has also noticed a reduction in the severity of the seizures.

Clinical examination and diagnosis

Clinically, Fiji was not fully alert on the day of the vaccination booster (D0). This was put down to the fact that she was taking anti-epileptics.

Clinical examination identified no other illnesses.

Her body condition score was 6/9, and she weighed 41.8 kg. She was being fed exclusively a diet of dry food.

Fiji was being treated regularly for internal and external parasites.



Fiji

Dietary management and follow-up

The vaccination booster time was an opportunity to suggest the owner to try Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets® Canine NC™.

The new diet was introduced over one week, and during this period the owner noticed that his dog twice refused the new food. The owner then tried giving the food in 2 daily portions.

Fidji was seen again after 28 days (D28):

The dog's general condition was the same (virtually the same weight, identical sedation).

Her anti-epileptic treatment has not been changed during this review period.

The owner informed us of just one seizure on D15 that lasted for one minute.



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The animal was reviewed again on D56:

The owner reported a slight improvement in the level of sedation.
 A series of 2 seizures occurred on D33. Each seizure lasted 1 minute.

The animal was reviewed again on D84:

During this period, the owner observed just one seizure on D82. He told us that this was the longest period of time his dog had gone without suffering a seizure since she began being treated for epilepsy.

	Weight	Number of seizures	Consumption of Pro Plan® Veterinary Diets Canine NC™	Level of sedation (evaluated by the owner)	Quality of life (evaluated by the owner)
D0	41.8 kg	4	N/A	2/10	8/10
D28	41.15 kg	1	100%	2/10	8.5/10
D56	41.4 kg	2	95%	1.5/10	8.5/10
D84	40.8 kg	1	95%	1.5/10	8.5/10

Summary table of clinical data (evaluated by the owner).



Palatability was observed to be excellent with this dog throughout the review period, and her weight remained stable.

The owner noted an improvement in quality of life linked with the reduced level of sedation.

Discussion and conclusion

In this case, a decline was seen in the frequency of seizures and a decrease in their intensity during the review period. There was also a slight decrease in the dog's weight (she lost 1 kg over the 84 days). This is an important point, because phenobarbital is an appetite stimulant, which can cause some dogs to become overweight.

The owner reported a very good digestive tolerance, a palatability similar to her usual food and a decrease in the severity and frequency of seizures.

A few months after discontinuing the NeuroCare™ food, the dog suffered a serious relapse with more than 5 seizures a day for 2 or 3 days. Her phenobarbital and potassium bromide levels were therefore retested.