

VESTIBULAR DISEASE By Dr. John Fudens HMC DVM PH

Dogs and cats are susceptible to a condition called vestibular disease. This is a disturbance of the equilibrium or vestibular (balance and coordination) systems of the body which consists of parts of the inner ear and nervous system. This condition can be acquired or congenital. Certain dogs are prone to this condition as the incidence is greater in German Shepard, Beagle, Doberman Pincher and Cocker Spaniel breeds. Also Siamese and Burmese cats. But any and all dogs and cats can develop this condition.

The signs are head tilt, tendency to lean, fall, roll or turn in a tight circle, involuntary rapid twitching of eyes from side to side called nystagmus. There may be paralysis of facial muscles, drooping of the face and inability to close the eyelids. The onset of symptoms may be rapid or gradual although rapid is the usual case. Veterinarians tend to say the animal had a "stroke". Not so. Animals do not develop strokes like humans as they do not have arteriosclerosis or plaque develop in the arteries.

The most common causes are infections, trauma and tumors. There are many cases where no apparent cause can be found. These cases are mainly due to the immune system damage caused by the excessive use of multiple live viruses given every year to our pets. These vaccines also contain antibiotics, chemicals like formalin which is embalming fluid, mercury, etc. These substances are neurologically damaging to the body's systems.

Conventional medicine has no treatment or cure as it is primarily responsible for this condition to develop in the first place. Homoeopathy is the only therapy that is successful in returning the animal to a normal state.

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