



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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### Introduction

Fortune is an intact 7-year-old Ariegeois hound with a 5-year history of idiopathic epilepsy, diagnosed on the basis of clinical signs (after eliminating other causes as some metabolic diseases, by liver ultrasound and blood tests) This was diagnosed on the basis of clinical manifestations after eliminating the possibility of a metabolic disease following a liver ultrasound and blood tests. She lives in the countryside in a concrete-based kennel adjoining the house and garden. Fortune has unlimited access to the garden. The owner also has 5 other hounds in a separate kennel, which do not have access to the garden.

Fortune is a lively dog, and she has been on treatment for her epilepsy since the age of 2.

When she first began her epileptic seizures, treatment combining phenobarbital and potassium bromide was initiated. The dog rapidly stopped having seizures and the owner stopped the treatment on his own initiative. Less than a week after ceasing treatment, the seizures returned. The treatment was therefore resumed at the initial dose. The dog has been stable over the past 4 years, taking 17 mg of phenobarbital and 400 mg of potassium bromide once a day. The owner reports 1 to 2 seizures a month, but does not want to increase the anti-epileptic dosage to avoid increasing his dog's level of sedation and ataxia.

### Clinical examination and diagnosis

Fortune was not fully alert on the day of a routine review (D0), maybe attributable to the fact that she was being treated with antiepileptic drugs. The clinical examination also revealed mild elbow pain, caused by elbow osteoarthritis, and a body condition score of 5 out of 9 (body weight: 18.6 kg).

Fortune was being fed a exclusively a dry food diet (Wolpi® Chasse 30/14). Fortune had been regularly treated for internal and external parasites and her vaccinations were up to date.



Fortune

### Dietary management and Follow-up

The routine exam provide the opportunity to suggest the owner to try Proplan Veterinary Diets® NC Neurocare™ Canine Formula, in order to improve the management of his dog's epilepsy. The aim was to reduce the frequency, intensity and duration of the epileptic seizures. The new diet was introduced over one week, and during this period the owner noticed that his dog refused the new food 4 times. The owner then decide to give the food in 2 daily portions.

The anti-epileptic treatment was not modified during this follow-up period.

#### Follow up day 28 (D28)

The dog's general condition was the same, and the owners did not report any seizures during this period.

The dog ate the Proplan Veterinary Diets® NC Neurocare™ Canine Formula well, with an acceptance rate of about 90%.

A 2 days episode of diarrhoea was reported, although the precise cause of this diarrhoea was not determined.

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#### Follow up day 56 (D56)

Before this, between D28 and D56, Fortune was seen for an unwanted pregnancy. An abortion was performed by giving 2 injections of aglepristone (Alizine®) 24 hours apart at the dose recommended by the manufacturer.

Between D28 and D56, the owners reported a significant decrease (50%) in their dog's acceptance of Proplan Veterinary Diets® NC Neurocare™ Canine Formula. There is not known if could be a connection between abortion and this episode, but it's unlikely, because the decline in appetite had begun before the aglepristone injections.

Faced with this refusal, the owner therefore also gave the former food from time to time. After a 24 hour period of refusal, the owner gave the previous food again to see whether the dog's anorexia was caused by something other than a loss of appetite. The owner then tried mixing the old food with Proplan Veterinary Diets® NC Neurocare™ Canine Formula.

The dog had no epileptic seizures during this period.

#### Follow up day 84 (D84)

During this period, the dog's refusal of the food increased, with an acceptability rate down to about 25%. During this time, the proportion of reintroduced former food had increased to finally represent more than half of the dog's dry food. The dog would sort through and pick out the food she wanted. The owner therefore stopped giving the diet, and she had a seizure that lasted 5 minutes on D73.

	Weight	Number of seizures	Level of sedation (evaluated by the owner)	Quality of life (evaluated by the owner)
J0	18.6 kg	1	1/10	10/10
J28	18.7 kg	0	1/10	10/10
J56	19.6 kg	0	1/10	10/10
J84	19.7 kg	1	1/10	10/10

*Table 1. Follow up of Fortune's body weight, seizures frequency, level of sedation and quality of life. Note that the last two parameters were measured by the owner.*

### Discussion and conclusion

A decline in the frequency and intensity of seizures was seen in this case report, along the review period. However, the significant decline in consumption over the period of the study made it hard to interpret the results. Maybe if the consumption was the appropriated, better results could be shown.