VETERINARY TECHNICAL DATASHEET

Episodic Falling Syndrome, (EFS)

WISDOM HEALTH™

Mutation Found In :Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, English Toy Spaniel, King Charles Spaniel

Disorder Type

- Neuromuscular

Disease Severity

- Mild/moderate

Background

Episodic falling syndrome (EFS) is characterized by increased muscle tone and muscle spasticity in all four legs causing short collapse episodes. The episodes are often associated with exercise, excitement, or stress.

Key Signs

- Increased muscle tone
- Spasticity
- Collapse

Clinical Description

First signs of EFS can be seen in dogs 3 to 7 months of age. Episodic collapses are often associated with exercise, excitement, or stressful events, usually last a few seconds to several minutes, and resolve on their own. Episodic collapses begin with increased muscle tone leading to temporary immobility of the dog. The affected dog usually falls down with its limbs in an extended position. During an episode, an affected dog may exhibit bunny hop-like movements, have its back arched, and vocalize. The dog experiencing an episode stays fully conscious throughout. The severity and number of episodes vary over the course of the dog's life. Affected dogs appear neurologically normal between episodes.

Mode of Inheritance

- autosomal recessive

Gene Name

- BCAN

Next Steps

Treatment is supportive care during the stiff/collapse episodes and limiting exercise, excitement, and stressful events to limit the occurrence of these episodes.

References

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