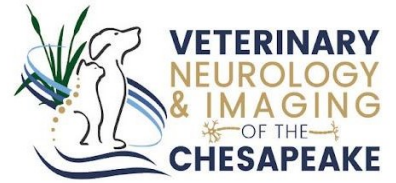


NEUROLOGY

Idiopathic Vestibular Disease

by Anthony Conte, DVM



Idiopathic geriatric vestibular disease is seen sporadically in dogs older than 10 years. It affects all breeds and does not have a sex preference.

It normally presents as the sudden onset, with a lack of additional findings on physical exam, advanced neurological testing and routine lab work. The symptoms can be very drastic; dogs with vestibular disease become suddenly very dizzy, nauseous, vomit, and/or fall/roll. Vestibular disease for which an underlying cause cannot be determined after thorough diagnostic evaluation is called idiopathic.

The classic idiopathic geriatric vestibular disease improves over the course of one to two weeks. The best treatment is supportive. However if the pet does not show 90% improvement in the next 2 1/2 weeks, a re-evaluation is warranted or sooner if the condition is worsening. Normally patients make great improvement and if neurologic deficits remain, they are typically minor.