



MANAGEMENT OF PARALYSIS IN A DOG

By

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Abstract

The client brought his dog, a male boer bull of about 2 years old to the clinic with complaint of recumbency and inappetence after a journey of eight (8) hours from Lagos to Benin city. On examination, the dog had no physical injury or swelling on the body and could not stand even with assistance. A diagnosis of paralysis due to stressful journey was made. The management plan was to provide nutrients that could help restore nerve function, administer drugs to take care of the pain along with physical therapy to assist recovery.

The dog was managed with Neurovit Forte (vitamins B, B1 (thiamine), B6 (Pyridoxine) & B12 (Cynocobalamin), vitamin C) and diclofenac injection for three days along with massaging with Lofnac gel. By day 4 the dog was making effort to stand and showed good signs of recovery. Client was advised to always make good preparations for travelling with his dog.

Keywords: Pyridoxine, Diclofenac, Thiamine, Ascorbic Acid, Vitamins

Introduction

Paralysis is when an individual has lost voluntary control over movement in one or more parts of the body, because the message from the brain is not reaching the muscles properly. That broken message can be temporary or permanent, painful or painless, sudden or gradual. Paralysis (plegia) is complete loss of voluntary movement in the affected part of the body.

Differential diagnosis

- Severe arthritis or hip dysplasia flare: the dog is in pain and reluctant, but can usually move if coaxed; the paw is placed correctly rather than knuckled.
- Vestibular disease: dogs appear dizzy or fall to one side; the limbs can move, but balance is off.
- Exhaustion, heat stress, low blood sugar, general weakness that improves with rest or treatment, rather than limb-specific neurological deficits.

The hallmark symptoms of dog paralysis include changes in movement (knuckling, toe drag, crossing legs, collapse), altered sensation, spinal pain, and bladder/bowel dysfunction—plus the crucial context of timing and progression (Austin, 2025).

Some tips for preparing dogs for long journey

Starting preparations **several weeks before your trip** creates the foundation for comfortable travel with your dog. This time allows you to address health needs, build comfort with travel gear, and establish routines that will help during the journey.

Schedule a **vet check-up** at least three weeks before departure (Turner 2025).

In choosing the right car, size is probably the most important factor, as you'll need enough space for your dog (or dogs) to be comfortable. Temperature control is especially important if you're traveling in hot weather. Dogs can overheat quickly, so you'll want a car with good air conditioning and ventilation.

Also make sure your dog is properly secured while riding in the car – both for their safety and yours. If they're small enough, they can ride in a crate or carrier secured with a seatbelt. For larger dogs, look for a harness that attaches to your car's seatbelts.

Before the journey, get the dog used to being in the car by taking some short trips around the block or to nearby trails before embarking on a longer journey. This will help them get

acclimated to the car and understand that it is a time to relax and not a time to play.

Also make sure that your dog gets some good exercise before starting the trip. Take them out for a walk or jog, give them some extra time to run around the yard, or play a nice long game of fetch. A tired dog is usually a well behaved dog!

Next, create a comfortable space for them in the car. If possible, put a soft mat or towel down for them to lie on and make sure they have plenty of room to move around. If they are crate trained, this may be the best option as it will provide a sense of security. Otherwise, secure them in the backseat with a seatbelt harness or cargo area with a pet barrier.

Finally, try to keep the car as calm as possible during the drive. Avoid loud music or excessive talking and instead focus on creating a relaxed atmosphere. This will help your dog stay calm and avoid getting too worked up during the trip (Sando, 2025).

HISTORY/SIGNALMENT

On the 6th of March 2025, a dog was brought to Vet Care hospital along Airport road Benin city with chief complain of inability to stand after travelling from Lagos to Benin city.

Age: 2 years

specie: Canine

Breed: Boer bull

Sex: Male

Clinical examination and diagnosis

- On presentation the dog was unable to stand and had to be force fed.
- The dog had been brought to town the previous day from Lagos, a drive of about 8 hours.
- On examination there were no signs of trauma on the body or limbs.
- The dog showed signs of weakness and could not stand even with assistance.
- Diagnosis: Stress induced hind limb paralysis



Pic 1: Dog in recumbent state being massaged on day 1

Treatment

Neurovit Forte is a vitamin supplement that helps improve nerve function and relieve pain and tingling sensations. It contains the 3 main vitamins B, B1 (thiamine), B6 (Pyridoxine) & B12 (Cynocobalamin). This combination is optimal for relieving pain and improving nerve functions.

Vitamin C tablet

Diclofenac (inj) for 3 days to relieve pain

Daily massage using Lofnac gel to revive weakened nerve and arteries. Stretches of the limb

Prognosis

- The dog responded positively to treatment and rehabilitation
- As at day 4, the dog was making effort to stand.
- Client was advised to continue the massage until full recovery.
- Client was also advised to ensure proper preparation to transport his dog in the future.



Pic. 2: Dog making attempt to stand on day 4

REFERENCES

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3. Sando, K [Preparing for a Road Trip with Your Dog - Animal Bliss](#) 2025