

Foreword: This condition is known in Border Terriers, but several cases in Welsh Terriers have recently become known.

PAROXYSMAL DYSKINESIA - BACKGROUND INFORMATION from the Neurology and Neurosurgery Service of the Royal Veterinary College

We have recently seen several Welsh Terriers with a type of suspected movement disorder. It is also termed “paroxysmal dyskinesia”.

Movement disorders are characterized by episodes of abnormal limb and body movements, and are increasingly recognised in veterinary medicine. These disorders are typically breed specific. They are challenging to diagnose and tend to involve sporadic, isolated episodes of disturbed movement without loss of consciousness. Affected dogs will appear completely normal between episodes.

The most recent thinking in human and veterinary medicine is that these represent a temporary dysfunction in a part of the brain that controls movement.

In the Welsh Terriers that have presented these symptoms, the disorder has been characterised by episodes as mentioned above, involving abnormal body/trunk posture and sustained limb elevation and can be distressing to witness.

The episodes we have seen can last for several minutes, but it is possible that there is variation in episode length from seconds to hours in some dogs. Similar episodes have sometimes been described as seizure-like; however, on examination of video footage, they are more consistent with a movement disorder.

Due to the shared symptoms between the cases seen at the Neurology and Neurosurgery Service at the Royal Veterinary College, we suspect that it may represent a condition that IS breed specific, potentially with a genetic cause.

We are therefore aiming to further characterise the disorder in the wider Welsh Terrier population, with the objective of increasing awareness or recognition in this breed.

We also have a long-term aim of investigating contributive factors, including a potential genetic origin. Eventually, we hope to determine if specific treatment or management options are effective.

If your Welsh Terrier has any of these symptoms and you would like to take part in the survey, the link to the RVC questionnaire is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/movementdisorderswelshterrier>

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