



Questions for the Neurologist

What to ask when IVDD surgery is on the table

PETSLIKEMINE
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC DISEASE

PET NAME _____	DATE _____	NEUROLOGIST / CENTRE _____	REFERRED BY _____
-------------------	---------------	-------------------------------	----------------------

A referral appointment moves fast and your head is full. Tick these off as you ask, and jot the answers on the notes lines, so you leave with the facts rather than a blur. None of these are awkward questions; a good specialist will welcome them.

THE DIAGNOSIS AND THE SCAN

- What exactly is the diagnosis, and how sure are we?
- Which disc, and whereabouts in the spine, is the problem?
- Do you recommend an MRI or CT scan, and what will it tell us?

THEIR ANSWER / MY NOTES

THE GRADE AND DEEP PAIN

- What grade is my dog today?
- Is deep pain present, and what does that mean for the odds?

THEIR ANSWER / MY NOTES

THE OPERATION ITSELF

- Which operation do you propose, for example a hemilaminectomy for the back or a ventral slot for the neck?
- Will you fenestrate any other discs at the same time, and why or why not?
- What do the anaesthetic and surgery involve for a dog like mine?

THEIR ANSWER / MY NOTES

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Ask freely and write the answers down. The questions overleaf cover the odds, the recovery, the alternatives, and the cost.

BRING THIS WITH YOU TO YOUR NEXT VET APPOINTMENT



Questions for the Neurologist

The odds, the recovery, the alternatives, and the cost

PETSLIKEMINE
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC DISEASE

THE ODDS AND THE TIMING

- Realistically, what is my dog's chance of walking again with surgery?
- How urgent is this, and could waiting reduce the chance?
- What happens if we do not operate?

THEIR ANSWER / MY NOTES

RECOVERY AND AFTERCARE

- How many nights in hospital, and what does the home recovery involve?
- What rest and rehabilitation will my dog need, and for how long?
- What complications or warning signs should I watch for at home?

THEIR ANSWER / MY NOTES

ALTERNATIVES AND COST

- Is conservative management still a reasonable option for my dog?
- Could my dog be a candidate for the less invasive enzyme injection?
- May I have an itemised estimate, and are fixed-price packages or payment plans available?
- Will you liaise with my insurer, and can pre-authorisation be arranged?

THEIR ANSWER / MY NOTES

THE BOTTOM LINE

Before you leave, make sure you are clear on the recommended plan, the odds, the urgency, and the cost. Our decision worksheet helps you weigh it all calmly once you are home.

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. There is no such thing as a daft question here. Leaving with clear answers is how you make a hard decision well.

BRING THIS WITH YOU TO YOUR NEXT VET APPOINTMENT