

2 Practical Guide to Canine and Feline Neurology

Table 1.1 Breed-associated neurologic abnormalities of dogs.

Afghan Hound	Acquired (idiopathic) laryngeal paralysis Hereditary myelopathy (leukodystrophy) Narcolepsy/cataplexy Retinal degeneration
Airedale Terrier	Cerebellar abiotrophy Cerebellar hypoplasia Congenital myasthenia gravis Degenerative lumbosacral stenosis
Akita	Acquired myasthenia gravis Congenital deafness Congenital vestibular disease (bilateral) Glycogenolysis (type III)
Alaskan Husky	Gangliosidosis (GM1) Mitochondrial encephalopathy (Leigh's disease, subacute necrotizing encephalopathy)
Alaskan Malamute	Hereditary polyneuropathy Myelodysplasia Muscular dystrophy Osteochondromatosis of the vertebrae
American Bulldog	Ceroid lipofuscinosis
American Eskimo dog	Congenital deafness
Australian Blue Heeler	Congenital deafness
Australian Cattle dog	Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital deafness Dermatomyositis Mitochondrial encephalomyelopathy Myotonia congenita Polioencephalomyelopathy
Australian Kelpie	Cerebellar abiotrophy
Australian Shepherd	Ceroid lipofuscinosis (CLN 6) Congenital deafness
Basset Hound	Cervical spondylomyelopathy (bony stenosis) Degenerative disc disease (type I) Globoid cell leukodystrophy (Krabbe's disease)
Bavarian Mountain dog	Glycoproteinosis (Lafora's disease)
Beagle	Cerebellar abiotrophy Agenesis vermis cerebellum Congenital deafness Congenital vestibular disease Cerebellar abiotrophy Globoid cell leukodystrophy (Krabbe's disease) Glycoproteinosis (Lafora's disease) Idiopathic epilepsy Intervertebral disc disease (type I) Methionine deficiency-related spinal myelinopathy Narcolepsy Necrotizing vasculitis (steroid meningitis, Beagle pain syndrome) Gangliosidosis (GM1)
Beagle mix	
Belgian Sheepdog	Congenital nystagmus Muscular dystrophy
Belgian Shepherd (Groenendael)	Muscular dystrophy
Belgian Shepherd (Malinois)	Degenerative myelopathy Degenerative lumbosacral stenosis Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration (encephalomyelopathy, Belgian Shepherd (Malinois)/Shepherd mixed-breed dogs)

Table 1.1 (Continued)

Belgian Shepherd (Tervuren)	Idiopathic epilepsy Muscular dystrophy
Bern Running dog	Cerebellar degeneration
Bernese Mountain dog	Aggression Cerebellar abiotrophy Degenerative myelopathy Epilepsy Hepatocerebellar degeneration Histiocytic sarcoma Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis) Meningitis/meningomyelitis (necrotizing vasculitis)
Bichon Frise	Atlantoaxial instability Caudal occipital malformation syndrome Congenital deafness Idiopathic tremor syndrome (steroid responsive)
Blue Tick Hound	Globoid cell leukodystrophy
Boerboel	Cervical spondylomyelopathy
Border Collie	Cerebellar abiotrophy Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital deafness Fibrocartilaginous embolic myelopathy Idiopathic epilepsy Sensory neuropathy
Border Terrier	Spongiform leukoencephalopathy
Borzoi	Cervical spondylomyelopathy Congenital deafness
Boston Terrier	Brain tumor (gliomas) Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Congenital hydrocephalus Congenital vertebral malformation (hemivertebrae) Intracranial arachnoid cyst Muscular dystrophy Myelodysplasia Vermian hypoplasia
Bouvier des Flandres	Distal sensorimotor polyneuropathy Hereditary laryngeal paralysis Muscular dystrophy Pharyngeal/esophageal myopathy
Boxer dog	Autoimmune polymyositis (+/- paraneoplastic) Congenital deafness Corticosteroid-responsive (aseptic) meningitis Degenerative myelopathy Disseminated idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) Head-bobbing (suspected dyskinesia) Neuroaxonal dystrophy Neuronal vacuolation Pilonidal (dermoid) sinus Primary brain tumor (glioma, meningioma) Progressive axonopathy Sensory neuropathy Spondylosis deformans
Briquet Griffon Vendéen	Spinal muscular atrophy (motor neuron disease)

Table 1.1 (Continued)

Brittany Spaniel	Cerebellar abiotrophy (late onset) Muscular dystrophy Sensory ganglioradiculitis Spinal muscular atrophy Spinocerebellar degeneration
Brussels Griffon	Chiari-like malformation (CLM)
Bull Mastiff	Cerebellar abiotrophy Cervical spondylomyelopathy Extradural synovial cyst Leukodystrophy/spongiform degeneration
Bull Terrier	Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Hereditary laryngeal paralysis Hyperkinesia Tail chasing
Cairn Terrier	Globoid cell leukodystrophy Hydrocephalus Portosystemic shunt (hepatic encephalopathy) Spinal muscular atrophy (motor neuron disease)
Cardigan Welsh Corgi	Congenital deafness Sensory ganglioradiculitis
Catahoula Leopard dog	Congenital deafness
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	Chiari-like malformation (CLM) Cerebellar infarct Congenital deafness Dorsolateral vertebral canal stenosis and compression at C2–C3 Episodic muscle hypertonicity (“falling cavaliers”—probable dyskinesia) Femoral thromboembolism Fly chasing behavior Idiopathic epilepsy Primary secretory otitis media
Chihuahua	Atlantoaxial instability Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital deafness Congenital hydrocephalus Muscular dystrophy Necrotizing meningoencephalitis Neuroaxonal dystrophy
Chinese Crested	Cerebellar abiotrophy
Chow Chow	Cerebellar hypoplasia Congenital deafness Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis) Myotonia congenita
Clumber Spaniel	Cerebellar abiotrophy Mitochondrial myopathy
Cocker Spaniel	Cerebellar abiotrophy Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital deafness Congenital vestibular disease (English) Cryptococcosis (American) Hydrocephalus Idiopathic facial nerve paralysis Intervertebral disc disease (type I) Juvenile epilepsy Leukodystrophy/spongiform degeneration

Table 1.1 (Continued)

	Multisystem neuronal degeneration (red-haired) Muscular dystrophy Myopathy (lipid storage, mitochondrial, phosphofructokinase deficiency) Myotonia congenita
Collie (rough-coated)	Cerebellar abiotrophy Dermatomyositis Optic nerve hypoplasia Sensory trigeminal neuropathy
Collie (scotch)	Congenital deafness Dermatomyositis
Collie (smooth-coated)	Distal polyneuropathy Congenital deafness Dermatomyositis Neuroaxonal dystrophy
Coton de Tuléar	Spinal muscular atrophy
Dachshund	Cerebellar abiotrophy (two forms) Cerebellar abiotrophy Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital deafness (dappled) Glycoproteinosis Idiopathic epilepsy Intervertebral disc disease (type I) Mucopolysaccharidosis (type III; wire-haired) Myasthenia gravis (congenital, acquired) Narcolepsy/cataplexy Neuronal glycoproteinosis (Lafora's disease)
Dalmatian	Sensory neuropathy (long-haired) Ceroid lipofuscinosis Cervical spondylomyelopathy Congenital deafness Episodic muscle hypertonicity (“cramp”) Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis) Laryngeal paralysis/polymyopathy complex
Doberman Pinscher	Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration Cervical spondylomyelopathy Congenital deafness Congenital vestibular disease (uni or bilateral) Dancing Doberman disease Idiopathic head tremor Idiopathic self-mutilation (sensory neuropathy) Immune mediated myositis Narcolepsy/Cataplexy
Dogo Argentino	Congenital deafness Laryngeal paralysis/polymyopathy complex
Dogue de Bordeaux	Cranial thoracic stenosis
English Bulldog	Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Congenital vertebral malformation (Hemivertebra) Hydrocephalus Idiopathic head tremor Sacrococcygeal malformation Spina bifida

(continued)

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Table 1.1 (Continued)

English Foxhound	Methionine deficiency-related spinal myelinopathy (Hound ataxia)
English Pointer	Cerebellar abiotrophy Sensory neuropathy (automutilation) Spinal muscular atrophy
English Setter	Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital deafness
Fila Brasileiro	Intervertebral disc disease (type II)
Fox Terrier	Congenital deafness Myasthenia gravis (congenital) Spinocerebellar degeneration
French Bulldog	Arachnoid diverticulum Congenital deafness Congenital vertebral malformation (Hemivertebrae)
Gammel Dansk Hønsehund	Idiopathic head tremor Congenital myasthenic syndrome (presynaptic)
German Shepherd dog	Acquired myasthenia gravis Autoimmune polymyositis Cervical spondylomyelopathy Congenital deafness Congenital megaesophagus Congenital vestibular disease Cranial thoracic disc disease (protrusion) Degenerative lumbosacral stenosis Degenerative myelopathy Fibrotic myopathy Giant axonal neuropathy Hereditary laryngeal paralysis (white coat) Idiopathic epilepsy Intervertebral disc disease (type II) Masticatory myositis Mitochondrial myopathy Mucopolysaccharidosis Nephroblastoma Neuroaxonal dystrophy Spinal muscular atrophy (motor neuron disease)
German Shorthaired Pointer	Coccygeal muscle injury Gangliosidosis (GM2) Hemivertebra Pyogranulomatous meningoencephalomyelitis Sensory neuropathy
Golden Retriever	Acquired myasthenia gravis Eosinophilic meningoencephalitis Extraocular myositis Horner's syndrome Hypomyelinating polyneuropathy Idiopathic epilepsy Multiple cartilaginous exostoses Multisystem axonopathy and neuronopathy Muscular dystrophy Myasthenia gravis Primary brain tumor (meningioma) Sensory neuropathy Cerebellar abiotrophy
Gordon Setter	Cervical spondylomyelopathy
Great Dane	Inherited (noninflammatory/central core) myopathy Congenital deafness

Table 1.1 (Continued)

	Congenital myotonia Disseminated idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) Distal symmetric polyneuropathy Extradural synovial cyst Fibrocartilaginous embolic myelopathy (FCE)
	Myasthenia gravis Nemaline myopathy Primary orthostatic tremor Spinal muscular atrophy (Great Dane crosses)
Great Pyrenees (Pyrenean Mountain dog)	Congenital deafness Laryngeal paralysis/polyneuropathy complex Optic nerve hypoplasia
Greyhound	Cervical disc disease Congenital deafness Congenital megaesophagus Corticosteroid (aseptic) responsive meningitis Degenerative lumbosacral stenosis Exertional myopathy Fibrocartilaginous embolic myelopathy Thalamic infarct
Harrier	Cerebellar abiotrophy (Finnish) Methionine deficiency-related spinal myelinopathy
Hound	Methionine deficiency-related spinal myelinopathy Polyradiculoneuritis
Hovawart	Degenerative myelopathy
Ibizan Hound	Axonopathy (central and peripheral) Congenital deafness
Irish Setter	Acquired (idiopathic) laryngeal paralysis Cerebellar abiotrophy Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital megaesophagus Hereditary quadriplegia and amblyopia Idiopathic epilepsy Laryngeal paralysis (acquired idiopathic) Lissencephaly
Irish Terrier	Muscular dystrophy
Irish Wolfhound	Cervical spondylomyelopathy Fibrocartilaginous embolic myelopathy (juvenile)
Italian Greyhound	Spinal epidural empyema Cervical intervertebral disc disease Congenital deafness
Italian Spinone	Cerebellar abiotrophy
Jack Russell Terrier	Congenital deafness Congenital myasthenia gravis Hereditary ataxia Intracranial arachnoid cyst Mitochondrial encephalopathy Myokymia/neuromyotonia Myotonia congenita Neuroaxonal dystrophy Sensory neuropathy
Japanese Chin	Atlantoaxial instability
Japanese Spaniel	Gangliosidosis (GM2)
Japanese Spitz	Muscular dystrophy
Keeshond	Idiopathic epilepsy

Table 1.1 (Continued)

Kerry Blue Terrier	Cerebellar abiotrophy Degenerative myelopathy Multisystem degeneration
Kuvasz	Congenital deafness
Labrador Retriever	Acquired (idiopathic) laryngeal paralysis Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Exercise intolerance-collapse syndrome Idiopathic epilepsy Labrador Retriever (central) axonopathy Labrador Retriever myopathy Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration (encephalomyelopathy) Lumbosacral stenosis Myasthenia gravis (acquired) Myotonia congenital Narcolepsy/cataplexy Organic aciduria Reflex myoclonus
Lagotto Romagnolo dog	Cerebellar abiotrophy Idiopathic epilepsy
Leonberger dog	Laryngeal paralysis/polyneuropathy complex
Lhasa Apso	Leukoencephalomyelopathy Congenital hydrocephalus Lissencephaly
Lurcher Hound	Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis)
Malinois Shepherd cross	Spongiform degeneration (gray matter)
Maltese	Chiari-like malformation (CLM) Congenital deafness Congenital hydrocephalus Idiopathic (steroid responsive) tremor syndrome Necrotizing meningoencephalitis Organic aciduria
Mastiff	Cerebellar abiotrophy Cervical spondylomyelopathy
Miniature Pinscher	Extradural synovial cyst Atlantoaxial subluxation Congenital deafness Idiopathic tremor syndrome Mucopolysaccharidosis (type 2)
Miniature Poodle	Congenital deafness
Newfoundland	Myasthenia gravis Polymyositis
Norwegian Hound (Dunker)	Congenital deafness
Norwich Terrier	Episodic muscle hypertonicity
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever	Congenital deafness Idiopathic epilepsy Steroid responsive meningitis arteritis
Old English Sheepdog	Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Mitochondrial myopathy Muscular dystrophy
Papillon	Congenital deafness Neuroaxonal dystrophy
Pekingese	Atlantoaxial instability Congenital hydrocephalus Intervertebral disc disease (type I) Optic nerve hypoplasia

Table 1.1 (Continued)

Pembroke Welsh Corgi	Degenerative myelopathy Dermatomyositis Intervertebral disc disease (type I) Sensory ganglioradiculoneuritis
Pit Bull Terrier	Congenital deafness
Plott Hound	Mucopolysaccharidosis (type 1)
Pointer	Congenital deafness Spinal muscular atrophy
Pomeranian	Atlantoaxial instability Chiari-like malformation (CLM) Congenital hydrocephalus Globoid cell leukodystrophy Intracranial arachnoid cyst
Poodle (Miniature)	Atlantoaxial instability Chiari-like malformation (CLM) Cerebellar abiotrophy Degenerative myelopathy Glycoproteinosis Intervertebral disc disease (type I) Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration (brain)
	Narcolepsy/cataplexy Optic nerve hypoplasia Sphingomyelinosis Spinal cord leukodystrophy
Poodle (Standard)	Idiopathic epilepsy Organic aciduria (neonatal encephalopathy) Polymicrogyria (neuronal migration disorder)
Poodle (Toy)	Atlantoaxial instability Congenital hydrocephalus
Portuguese Water dog	Gangliosidosis (GM1)
Pug dog	Arachnoid diverticulum Chiari-like malformation (CLM) Congenital vertebral malformation (hemivertebra) Degenerative myelopathy Intracranial arachnoid cyst Necrotizing meningoencephalitis
Puli	Congenital deafness
Queensland Blue Heeler	Ceroid lipofuscinosis
Rat Terrier	Muscular dystrophy
Rhodesian Ridgeback	Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Degenerative myelopathy Dermoid (pilonidal) sinus Myotonia congenital
Rottweiler	Cervical spondylomyelopathy Congenital deafness Distal sensorimotor polyneuropathy Laryngeal paralysis-polyneuropathy complex Leukoencephalomyelopathy Myopathy (distal) Neuroaxonal dystrophy Neuronal vacuolation Spinal arachnoid cyst Spinal muscular atrophy (motor neuron disease)

(continued)

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Table 1.1 (Continued)

Russian Wolfhound	Optic nerve hypoplasia
Saint Bernard	Acquired (idiopathic) laryngeal paralysis Congenital deafness Episodic dyscontrol (rage syndrome) Idiopathic epilepsy Narcolepsy/cataplexy
Saluki	Ceroid lipofuscinosis Leukodystrophy Spinal muscular atrophy (motor neuron disease)
Samoyed	Spongiform degeneration (gray matter) Cerebellar abiotrophy Cerebellar hypoplasia/lissencephaly Congenital myasthenia gravis Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis) Leukodystrophy/spongiform degeneration Muscular dystrophy Myotonia congenita (Samoyed cross-breed)
Schnauzer (Giant)	Congenital deafness Narcolepsy/cataplexy
Schnauzer (Miniature)	Congenital megaesophagus Fibrocartilaginous embolic myelopathy Hyperlipidemia (seizures) Idiopathic adipisia Idiopathic epilepsy Intervertebral disc disease (Type I) Muscular dystrophy Myotonia congenita
Scottish Deerhound	Primary orthostatic tremor Vertebral articular process (facet) hypertrophy
Scottish Terrier	Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Episodic muscle hypertonicity (Scotty cramp) Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration (fibrinoid leukodystrophy/Alexander's disease) Sensory ganglioradiculitis
Sealyham Terrier	Congenital deafness
Shar Pei	Congenital megaesophagus
Shetland Sheepdog	Congenital deafness Dermatomyositis Hyperlipidemia (seizures) Mitochondrial encephalopathy (Kearns-Sayre syndrome) Spongiform encephalopathy
Shih Tzu	Atlantoaxial instability Intervertebral disc disease Intracranial arachnoid cyst
Shiloh Shepherd dog	Vertebral articular process (facet) hypertrophy
Shropshire Terrier	Congenital deafness
Siberian Husky	Congenital deafness Degenerative myelopathy Hereditary laryngeal paralysis Sensory ganglioradiculoneuritis
Silky Terrier	Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration

Table 1.1 (Continued)

Smooth-coated Fox Terrier	Congenital myasthenia gravis Hereditary ataxia
Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier	Congenital deafness Degenerative myelopathy Dyskinesia (movement disorder)
Springer Spaniel	Congenital deafness Congenital myasthenia gravis Episodic dyscontrol (rage syndrome) Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis) Fucosidosis
Staffordshire Terrier	Chiari-like malformation (CLM) Cerebellar abiotrophy Myotonia congenita Organic aciduria (L-2-hydroxyglutaric aciduria)
Sussex Spaniel	Congenital deafness Mitochondrial myopathy
Swedish Lapland dog	Glycogenosis type II Spinal muscular atrophy (motor neuron disease)
Sydney Silky Terrier	Glucocerebrosidosis
Terrier Mix	Multiple cartilaginous exostoses
Tibetan Mastiff	Hypertrophic neuropathy
Tibetan Spaniel	Congenital deafness
Tibetan Terrier	Ceroid lipofuscinosis Congenital deafness
Toy Poodle	Congenital deafness
Walker Hound	Congenital deafness Mononeuropathy
Weimaraner	Cerebellar hypoplasia Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis) Spinal dysraphism
West Highland White Terrier	Congenital deafness Corticosteroid responsive (idiopathic) tremor syndrome Globoid cell leukodystrophy Organic aciduria (L-2-hydroxyglutaric aciduria)
Whippet	Congenital deafness Sensory neuropathy
Wire-haired Fox Terrier	Cerebellar abiotrophy Congenital deafness Congenital megaesophagus Lissencephaly
Yorkshire Terrier	Atlantoaxial instability Chiari-like malformation (CLM) Congenital deafness Congenital hydrocephalus Intervertebral disc disease (type I) Microvascular hepatic dysplasia Mitochondrial encephalopathy Myokymia/neuromyotonia Necrotizing leukoencephalitis Portosystemic shunt (hepatic encephalopathy)
Yugoslavian Sheepdog	Ceroid lipofuscinosis

Table 1.2 Breed-associated neurologic abnormalities of cats.

Abyssinian	Acquired myasthenia gravis
Balinese	Sphingomyelinosis (Niemann–Pick disease, type A)
Birman	Distal polyneuropathy
Burmese	Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration
Cornish Rex	Congenital vestibular disease
Devon Rex	Hypokalemic myopathy
Domestic Short-haired cat	Meningoencephalocele
	Congenital deafness (white coat)
	Congenital deafness (white coat)
	Muscular dystrophy
	Acquired (idiopathic) laryngeal paralysis
	Ceroid lipofuscinosis
	Globoid cell leukodystrophy (Krabbe's disease)
	Gangliosidosis (GM1)
	Gangliosidosis (GM2)
	Hyperoxaluria
	Mannosidosis
	Metachromatic leukodystrophy
	Mucopolipidosis II (I-cell disease)
	Mucopolysaccharidosis (type I) (Hurler's syndrome)
	Mucopolysaccharidosis (type VI) (Maroteaux–Lamy syndrome)
	Muscular dystrophy
	Neuroaxonal dystrophy
	Sphingomyelinosis (Niemann–Pick disease, type C)
	Spinal muscular atrophy
Domestic Tri-colored cat	Neuroaxonal dystrophy
Egyptian Mau	Leukodystrophy/spongy degeneration
Exotic Short Hair	Congenital deafness (white coat)
Himalayan	Esophageal hypomotility
	Fibrotic myopathy
	Pendular nystagmus (congenital)
Korat	Gangliosidosis (GM1)
	Laryngeal paralysis
	Lisencephaly
Manx	Congenital deafness (white-coat Manx)
	Sacrocaudal (sacrococcygeal) dysgenesis
Norwegian Forest cat	Glycogenesis (type IV)
Persian	Cerebellar abiotrophy (late onset)
	Congenital deafness (white coat)
	Mannosidosis-alpha
Rex	Myopathy
Scottish Fold	Congenital deafness (white coat)
Siamese	Cerebellar abiotrophy
	Ceroid lipofuscinosis
	Congenital vestibular disease
	Gangliosidosis (GM1)
	Hypomyelination/dysmyelination (dysmyelinogenesis)
	Mucopolysaccharidosis
	Muscular dystrophy
	Myasthenia gravis
	Pendular nystagmus (congenital)
	Sphingomyelinosis
Somali	Acquired myasthenia gravis
Sphynx	Muscular dystrophy
Turkish Angora	Congenital deafness (white coat)

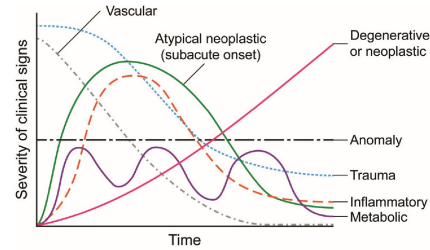


Figure 1.1 Sign-time graph of neurologic diseases. This applies to the majority of cases but there are exceptions in essentially all categories. (The Ohio State University. Reproduced with permission.)

erroneous diagnostic approach. It is important to ask the client to simply state the signs he/she observed, without interpretative connotations, leaving the interpretation of all signs to the clinician.

For any episodic event or signs seen only intermittently, it is very helpful to have a video recording of the event. In this day, video recording is easily available, and in cases where the history is unclear and the neurologic signs inconclusive, it is important to review videos showing the events/episodes to decide on the diagnostic approach.

The neurologic history should allow the clinician to obtain information regarding the possible etiologies. In general, there are expected time course patterns characteristic of certain categories of neurologic disease. Ischemic/vascular and traumatic disorders tend to have peracute onsets (within minutes to a few hours) and often progress minimally or not at all after the initial 24 hrs of onset of clinical signs. Inflammatory/infectious disorders tend to have acute onsets (hours to days) with fairly rapid progression if not aggressively treated. Neoplastic and degenerative disorders often display insidious onset of clinical dysfunction (days to several months) with slower progression of clinical signs (Fig. 1.1). Some degenerative disorders (e.g. type II disc disease) may progress slowly over several years. Many anomalous disorders are characterized by static disease courses, that is the clinical abnormality is recognized at a young age and the disease is nonprogressive. Finally, there are some neurologic disorders that are typically episodic in nature, such as idiopathic epilepsy. As with signalment information, the nature of disease onset and progression is often helpful in ranking differential diagnoses in terms of likelihood for a specific patient, but should be considered as a rough guideline only. There are numerous and notable exceptions to the expectations outlined above. For example, spinal lymphoma in cats is characterized by acute onset of clinical signs.

The history can also provide therapeutic and prognostic information. For example, a large-breed dog with progressive proprioceptive ataxia and paraparesis that received treatment with