

CORNEAL ULCERS

WHAT IS A CORNEAL ULCER?

An ulcer is a defect causing disruption to the normal structure of the cornea. A superficial ulcer affects only the thin surface epithelial layer, whereas a deeper ulcer affects both the epithelial layer and stroma. The stroma is the strongest part of the cornea that helps maintain the shape. If an ulcer is very deep, the thin membrane that maintains the integrity of the eye may be exposed. This is known as a descemetocoele and is a serious issue requiring urgent surgery to prevent rupture of the eye.

WHY DO ULCERS DEVELOP?

Ulceration is usually caused by damage to the cornea, although spontaneous cases may occur. Common causes include: injury, tear film problems or abnormalities, hairs rubbing on the eye or infections in and around the eye. Some brachycephalic breeds have reduced corneal sensation, so they may not display any symptoms despite a serious ulcer developing. You should be vigilant for ulceration symptoms.

CLINICAL SIGNS

- ☒ Eye discomfort: squinting or blinking, excessive watering or discharge, rubbing of the eye.
- ☒ Redness in the tissues surrounding the eye.
- ☒ Cloudiness to the surface of the eye.
- ☒ Obvious defect, dent or crater on the surface of the eye.

WHAT TREATMENT IS AVAILABLE?

This depends on the underlying cause. Superficial ulcers and some stromal ulcers can be medically managed, but this can be intensive. If the ulcer is deep, surgery to place a graft will be advised.

THE HEALING PROCESS

Whether surgically or medically managed, regular assessment is required to ensure the ulcer is healing as expected. The appearance of the graft will change during the healing process, which can take a few weeks. Your pet must wear a buster collar, as the smallest knock can disrupt the healing process.

Optivet Referrals

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ANY QUESTIONS?

Do not hesitate to contact us.

Call us on: 012433888091

Email us on: advice@optivet.com

Visit our website: www.optivet.com

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

At Optivet, we understand that your pet is part of your family, and when under our care you are part of ours. Our specialist team are on hand to help with any queries or concerns you may have. Our emotional support advisor Sam is always on hand if you feel overwhelmed at any time, or would just like a listening ear.



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