

# GLAUCOMA

## WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?

Glaucoma is a painful and potentially blinding eye disease that usually presents suddenly. It is caused by an increased pressure in the eye. When treated promptly, blindness can sometimes be delayed. Unfortunately if left too late, blindness may be permanent.

## WHAT CAUSES GLAUCOMA?

Glaucoma can be categorised into congenital, primary and secondary cause. The cause is determined by a combination of the age of your pet, the breed, and the examination findings.

## SECONDARY GLAUCOMA

This can occur in any breed of dog due to a different process in the eye, such as: Anterior uveitis (inflammation inside the eye), a tumour, trauma to the eye, or an anterior lens luxation (the lens or cataract falls to the front of the eye.)

## CLINICAL SIGNS

- ☒ Red eye
- ☒ Blue/cloudy eye
- ☒ Vision loss
- ☒ Pain- quiet, lethargic, decreased appetite
- ☒ Mucky discharge
- ☒ Dilated pupil
- ☒ Swollen/enlarged eye

## PRIMARY GLAUCOMA

Primary glaucoma means your pet has abnormalities with the 'drain' inside the eye. This abnormality means increased resistance to outflow, and leads to fluid build up inside the eye.

## EARLY DETECTION OF GLAUCOMA

- ☒ Redness in the white of the eye
- ☒ Blue, cloudy cornea
- ☒ Pupil that is not responding to bright light
- ☒ Increased levels of pain
- ☒ Vision loss

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## **TREATMENT OPTIONS**

- ✓ Resolving a blind, painful eye
- ✓ Emergency treatment
- ✓ Treating the potentially visual eye
- ✓ Extending visual life of the eye

### **EMERGENCY TREATMENT**

Dogs that present with sudden-onset glaucoma can be given eye drops to bring down the pressure inside the eye. If this is effective, then ongoing medication will be needed to control the pressure. If emergency medical management is unsuccessful, more invasive surgical treatment may be required depending on the individual. This may include removal of the eye.

### **DELAYING THE ONSET OF GLAUCOMA IN THE GOOD EYE**

For dogs with primary glaucoma, we can discuss the use of eye drops to delay the onset of glaucoma in the good eye. This medical treatment is life-long and will require regular check-ups.

### **BLIND, PAINFUL EYE**

If your pet has a blind, painful eye, eye removal is often the best option to allow your pet to live a comfortable life.

### **VISION-SAVING SURGERY**

If medication does not restore normal eye pressure, laser surgery with a shunt surgery may be performed. Both surgeries require a general anaesthetic and lifelong medications with regular check ups.

### **WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**

We understand that as a member of your family, it can be distressing to consider vision loss in your pet.

Our staff at Optivet are here to offer support, and are on the end of the phone for any advice or emergencies on:  
01243 888091  
[advice@optivet.com](mailto:advice@optivet.com)

# GLAUCOMA: DECISION TREE

