



Optivet Referrals

SARDS

SUDDEN ACQUIRED RETINAL DEGENERATION SYNDROME

WHAT IS SARDS?

SARDS is a condition which can cause sudden, irreversible blindness in dogs. You may notice an increased 'eye shine' and the pupil may appear dilated. SARDS typically affects middle aged or older dogs. Affected dogs are otherwise healthy, but can sometimes show signs of: increased thirst, increased urination, increased hunger and weight gain. These signs sometimes return to normal in the months following diagnosis.

WHAT CAUSES SARDS?

The underlying cause of SARDS is currently not completely understood. Recent research suggests an auto-immune component to the disease; however this has not been proven.

SARDS DIAGNOSIS

- ✓ Thorough ophthalmic examination to look at the back of the eye and assess the retina.
- ✓ An electroretinogram (ERG) may be performed to confirm SARDS.
- ✓ This may need a sedation, or may be performed during your consultation.

GOING FORWARD

SARDS is not a painful disease. At this time there is no effective treatment for SARDS. Dogs can cope well with blindness and can continue to have a good quality of life with some minor adjustments.

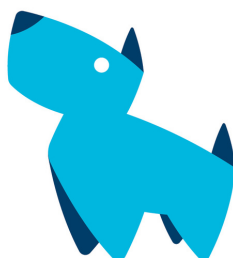
ANY QUESTIONS?

Call us on: 01243 888091 or email us as advice@optivet.com. We understand the importance of your pets health and how worrying it can be when they are unwell. We are here to listen and support you.

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