

ENUCLEATION

(EYE REMOVAL)

Why does my pet need to have the eye removed?

There are many different cases in which eye removal is warranted. The most common reasons for eye removal are:

- Glaucoma that is causing severe pain and irreversible blindness. Glaucoma is an increased pressure inside the eye which can be caused by either a primary inherited disease, or secondary to other conditions such as uveitis (inflammation inside the eye), luxation of the lens, or detached retina.
- Tumor growing inside the eye.
- Severe infection inside the eye, such as a fungus.

If you are not sure what the reason is, please don't hesitate to ask us to clarify.

Will my pet "miss" the eye?

Your pet will not know that the eye has been removed. In fact, most owners are amazed at how much better their pet feels once the painful eye is gone!

What happens the day of surgery?

During surgery, the entire contents of the orbit are removed, including the eye and surrounding tissues. The eyelids are then removed and the skin is stitched up with absorbable stitches that will fall out on their own in about a month.

How will my pet look after the surgery?

The fur will be shaved off in a circular pattern around the incision (it will grow back over the next month or so). The number of stitches used to close the wound varies, but there are usually about 5 or 6. **The area will be swollen and bruised for a few days after surgery, this is normal and will subside with time.** Some animals experience some blood oozing from the incision or the nose for a few days, this is also normal and can be prevented or controlled by keeping your pet calm and quiet.

Will I need to care for the incision?

You do not need to do anything to the incision. It does not require bandaging or dressings of any kind. We only ask that you watch for any signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, pain, or pus-like discharge. Your pet will be sent home with antibiotics to help prevent infection.

Most pets do not rub at the area because it does not bother them (as discussed before, most pets feel much happier once the painful eye is gone), but if you notice excessive rubbing/scratching at the area, your pet may need to wear a head collar ("cone") until healing is complete. Please call us if you have ANY concerns or questions.

Will I need to bring my pet back for a recheck?

This depends on what the initial problem with the eye was. If the other eye is at risk for developing problems, we will need to monitor it regularly - Dr. Wolfer will let you know how often. If the other eye is not at risk, chances are we do not need to see your pet back unless you have concerns. As mentioned before, the stitches are dissolvable, but may be removed at your regular vet's office in 10-14 days if they are bothering him.