

WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO AT HOME?

- When using eye drops, be sure to hold the lids open so the medication is placed directly into the eye. Wait 5 minutes between different drops so as not to flush out the previous medication before it has been absorbed. If you are required to use ointment, always apply it **AFTER** all the drops have been given.
- Keep the head collar on, even at night.
- Wipe away any discharge from the eye with a clean, moist Kleenex or face cloth.
- Keep your pet quiet.
- Call us if you have any questions or concerns!
- Book the recheck appointment as requested by the doctor. It is important to monitor the healing process.

IMPORTANT!

It is important to know that despite surgery, dry eye may develop later in life if damage occurs to all of the lacrimal glands. This damage is usually associated with an immune system dysfunction and its occurrence cannot be predicted or prevented.

Picture of a dog with a cherry eye:



FELINE CORNEAL SEQUESTRUM

The cornea is the clear portion of the eye, it is covered by a layer of epithelium. This epithelium is much like our skin cells, but it usually isn't pigmented and doesn't have hair or blood vessels in it. In the cat, the epithelium is about 6-8 layers thick. Lining the inside of the cornea is one cell layer called the endothelium. These endothelial cells are "leaky" and allow fluid ("aqueous humor") from the inside of the eye to leak into the corneal tissue and then pumps it back into the front of the eye. This pumping mechanism keeps the cornea clear. The greatest portion of the thickness of the cornea (about 90%) is the "stroma" which is a collagen fibre matrix.

WHAT IS A SEQUESTRUM?

Corneal sequestrum is a condition peculiar to the cat in which the corneal stroma dies and then degenerates. This condition is called necrosis. The dead stroma becomes pigmented and becomes irritating to the body causing pain and blood vessels to enter the stroma. There is often corneal edema (swelling) and white blood cell infiltration as a reaction to the necrotic tissue occurs.

WHAT CAUSES IT?

The cause of corneal sequestrum is unknown. A few veterinary ophthalmologists suggest that it is caused primarily by abnormal development of the cornea. Others suggest that the dead tissue is secondary to a host of factors that include herpes virus, lack of tear production (KCS), chronic corneal ulceration, and foreign objects in the eye. Additionally, some of these cats sleep with their eyes partially open (lagophthalmos), and the tear film is not spread adequately over the centre of the cornea, which results in drying. Some affected cats have a subtle in-rolling of the lower eyelid (entropion) which may irritate the cornea. The origin of the black discoloration of the necrotic stroma is thought to be due to products in the tears which are absorbed into the degenerative tissue.

WHICH CATS GET THIS CONDITION?

Corneal sequestra are seen in cats of all ages except the newborn. Although sequestra most often occur in young adult cats, we have seen it in cats from 2 to 16 years of age. There is no difference in occurrence by sex of the cat, but there is a noticeable breed distribution:

Himalayan	35%
Persian	35%
Siamese	15%
Domestic	10%

The Persian, Himalayan, and Siamese are most often seen, but cases also occur with lesser frequency in the Exotic Shorthair and Domestic Shorthair breeds. This breed disposition may not be genetic, as these breeds share certain conformational features that may predispose the cat to corneal sequestration. These breeds have some degree of exophthalmos (protruding eyes), and thus are subject to additional risk of trauma.