



YOUR PET HAS GLAUCOMA

Now What???

TYPES OF GLAUCOMA

 **PRIMARY:** Caused by an anatomical or biochemical defect, usually hereditary

 **SECONDARY:** Caused by an underlying disease process

Normal Intraocular Pressure:
10-25 mmHg

Glaucoma may be a sudden painful emergency or may present as a slowly progressive disorder.

CLINICAL SIGNS OF GLAUCOMA:

- Early on may look normal
 - Blood shot
 - Cloudy cornea
 - Dilated pupils
- Squinting, holding eye closed

IOP Values >50mmHg quickly lead to blindness, intense pain, and may cause the eye itself to stretch which may lead to rupture of the globe.

Glaucoma is an eye disorder, resulting from increased pressure within the eye (intraocular pressure). This can be extremely painful for the pet and may lead to blindness. Glaucoma can occur rapidly in our pets or may have a gradual onset depending upon the cause. **Primary glaucoma** is typically caused by an anatomical defect that leads to decreased draining of aqueous fluids from the eye. Whereas, **secondary glaucoma** is caused by a different disease process in the body. Diagnosis is made by measuring the eye pressure (IOP) of both eyes by tonometry and comparing the values of each eye to one another as well as the expected normal range.

Treatment

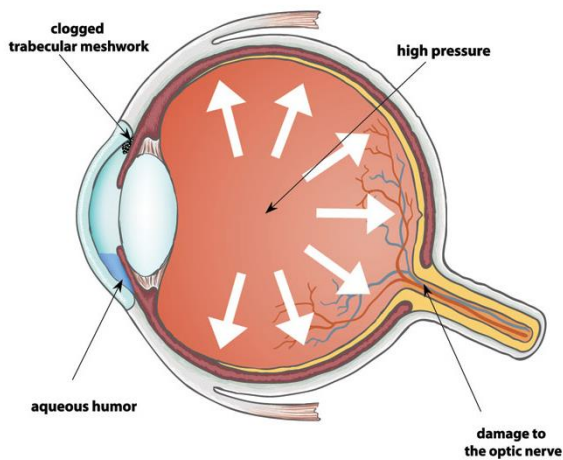
Treatment is usually lifelong, unless it is secondary to a different disease process and that disease can be identified and reversed. Treatment is achieved with the use of various eye drops that have been formulated for the treatment of human glaucoma. It is important that the eye drops are given on a consistent schedule. If glaucoma is diagnosed in one eye, it is common to start prophylactic treatment of the other eye to prevent rises in IOP. If glaucoma is determined to be primary there are surgical options for correcting the anatomic defect. If the pressures cannot be controlled with medication then additional pain control medicines or even removal of the eye may be needed to keep the pet comfortable.

Glaucoma Medications

Most glaucoma medications are obtained at human pharmacies with a prescription from your veterinarian. Sometime you may be able to get the drops directly from your veterinarian. There are several different types of drops that may be used to treat glaucoma, your vet will work with you to select the best medication for your pet. Some medications work best when used every 8 hours and others every 12 hours.

Monitoring

It is important to frequently monitor your pets IOP's. Optimally, when beginning treatment IOPs would be measured weekly until they normalized. We recommend testing pressures once every 6 months once IOP has stabilized. This can be done at your vet with a technique called tonometry. The device measures the pressures within the eyes. The goals of therapy are to maintain the pressures of the eye(s) as close to normal as possible.



Prognosis

Prognosis for quality of life is good, as long as the pressures can be managed to prevent pain associated with high pressures. Prognosis for sight however is guarded-poor. Pets with primary glaucoma will often slowly lose sight over time, even with adequate treatment.

Ophthalmologists Near By

Veterinary Vision Center: Shreveport, LA
 Animal Ophthalmology Clinic: Dallas, TX
 Texas Veterinary Ophthalmology: Fort Worth, TX
 LSU Ophthalmology: Baton Rouge, LA
 Southern Veterinary Eye Care: Mandeville, LA
 Eye Center for Animals: New Orleans, LA
 Gulf Coast Animal Eye Clinic: Houston, TX

Helpful Links

<http://www.blinddogsupport.com/what-happens-when-your-dog-gets-glaucoma-faqs/>

<https://www2.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/felinehealth-topics/feline-glaucoma>

Cats most commonly have the secondary form of glaucoma.

As such, diagnostics to identifying the underlying cause are very important.

🐾 Videos on how to apply eye medications:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLNmBH4puMM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUVM7BgnZHI>

Signs that may indicate your pet is experiencing pain:

- Irritability
- Decreased activity/play
- Decreased appetite

Some breeds predisposed for glaucoma:

- Cocker Spaniels
- Beagles
- Chihuahuas
- Basset Hounds