

## **Cataract Surgery-Frequently Asked Questions, Risks, etc.**

**Are there any complications I should watch for after surgery?** The most common complication is ocular hypertension that can occur hours to days after surgery. This involves increased pressure inside the eye from inflammation, and requires extra treatment with topical or oral medications. If left untreated it can lead to blindness, which may or may not be permanent. Any time there is an incision made there is always a risk of infection. For this reason, it is important to follow our post-operative treatment recommendations sent home. Other complications associated with this surgery are usually related to self-trauma (rubbing the incision too soon). This is why it is absolutely necessary to keep the protective collar on at all times during the recommended period. Some dogs may require wearing the collar for a longer period of time than originally recommended. Retinal detachment can occur following surgery in any breed, but is rare and is usually in certain breeds (Boston Terriers, Shih Tzu, and Terriers). Glaucoma is another risk that can occur days, weeks or even months after surgery. This can affect vision permanently. **FOUR recheck appointments are included at no charge following surgery and are scheduled 1 or 2 days post-surgery (depending on your pet we will make a recommendation), 1-week, 1-month & 1-year post-surgery.** However, if your pet requires more than four rechecks for any reason, recheck fees will apply once the four included exams are used.

**What kind of care is needed after surgery?** **THIS SURGERY REQUIRES INTENSIVE EYE DROP THERAPY WITH AN ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EYE DROP BEFORE SURGERY FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS. THIS MEDICATION WILL BE PRESCRIBED AT THE INITIAL VISIT. AFTER SURGERY THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF FIVE different eye drops that will need to be administered FOUR times a day (EACH) for approximately 3-4 weeks after surgery (an antibiotic, 3 different anti-inflammatories, and one tear replacement gel).** These can be spread out during your waking hours and do not have to be given exactly every 6 hours, but do **have to be given at least 5 min apart.** There will be two oral medications sent home as well (an antibiotic and an anti-inflammatory) and will be administered once a day for 10 days. Moderate discharge and/or a blood-tinged discharge from the eye may be present for 10-14 days that will require daily cleansing using a warm water-soaked cotton ball.

**How long will my pet have to wear the protective collar?** Your pet will wear an e-collar AT ALL TIMES until we are able to recheck, usually scheduled 6-8 days after surgery. Some pets may need to wear it longer if complications arise. This is a very necessary part of recovery. There are very tiny sutures on the eye that must be allowed to heal without rubbing. We understand that this is a very difficult adjustment for some pets but most adapt after 24-48 hours. **PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE PROTECTIVE COLLAR OR ALTER IT IN ANY WAY.**

**Can my pet be home alone after surgery?** Yes. However, we recommend supervision at all times during the first 24- hour post-op recovery period. We recommend using a kennel or a confined area of your home, such as a kitchen, and away from other pets when left alone.

**When will my pet be able to see?** Your pet may have very limited vision for the first 24-48 hours post-surgery, but vision should improve significantly on the second day. Your pet should be able to navigate without bumping straight into objects (peripheral vision will be affected by the protective collar). Initially, distance vision may be better than close up vision. Vision will continue to improve over the next 3 weeks as inflammation inside the eye improves. If your patient had vision prior to surgery, it is important to note that vision may be worse initially after surgery due to inflammation.

**What kind of physical restrictions will my dog have?** You can take your dog for a walk (do not attach a leash to the neck collar, instead, use a harness) as soon as they are ready. Do not encourage activities such as running, jumping, swimming, or wrestling with another dog or agility training for 2 weeks after surgery.

**Does having cataract surgery prevent any other eye problems in the future?** No. Problems with the eyes or vision can occur at any time, for reasons we cannot possibly predict. Allergies, Dry Eye, ulcers, glaucoma, and other diseases can occur in the future for unknown reasons. In general, patients with systemic or metabolic issues (Diabetes, Pancreatitis, Cushings, etc.) may be more susceptible to developing eye problems unrelated to cataract surgery and can occur at any time after surgery.