

Frequently Asked Questions-Enucleation Surgery

What is an Enucleation? ENUCLEATION (e-nuc-le-a-tion) Enucleation is the complete removal of the entire eyeball. In animals, the eyelids, third eyelid, conjunctiva, tear glands, and a portion of the extraocular muscles are also removed. A prosthetic sphere is inserted into the orbital cavity (socket) to minimize a sunken appearance. The skin of the eyelids is then permanently closed over the socket.

Which procedure is better for my pet? Most pet owners will select evisceration over enucleation because of the adversity to having an eye completely removed. Since both procedures permanently alleviate pain caused by the eye, the difference between the two procedures is based on the aesthetic / cosmetic appearance of the pet. Evisceration surgery is usually contraindicated when ocular neoplasia (tumors) or infection are present, and when deep corneal ulceration or perforation of the cornea has occurred.

Will my pet be able to see after surgery? No. This surgery is only performed on eyes that are already permanently blind. This procedure alleviates pain caused by the eye.

What kind of after care is needed after enucleation surgery? Your pet will need to wear a protective cone collar at all times for 7-10 days after surgery. Several oral medications will need to be administered 1-2 times daily. If any discharge develops from the surgical area, daily cleansing with a warm water-soaked cotton ball will be necessary.

How long will my pet have to wear the e-collar? Your pet MUST wear a protective collar AT ALL TIMES for 10 days. This is a necessary part of the post-operative treatment. The incisions must be allowed to heal without rubbing. We understand this is a very difficult adjustment for some pets but most adapt after 24-48 hours. PLEASE DO NOT ALTER/TRIM BACK OR REMOVE THE COLLAR.

Are there any complications I should watch for after surgery? 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. If necessary tissues are not completely removed during surgery, a cyst or a draining tract can develop at the surgical site, however this is extremely rare. 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. Two recheck appointments are included at no charge following surgery. If complications do arise, additional rechecks, surgery, and/or medications may be necessary.

I have read and understand the above information. The risks and complications associated with enucleation surgery have been explained to me to my understanding and satisfaction. I understand that I am responsible for asking any questions I have about this surgical procedure, aftercare instructions, and possible complications associated with this surgical procedure prior to pursuing surgery. In signing below, I understand and accept these risks.

X _____ DATE _____