

Frequently Asked Questions- Evisceration and Prosthesis Surgery

What is does Evisceration mean? EVISCERATION (e-vis-cer-a-tion) AND PROSTHESIS

An **evisceration** is the removal of the eye's inner contents (iris, lens, ciliary body, retina, choroid, vitreous) leaving the outer layer (sclera, cornea) and the eyelids, nictitans gland/third eyelid and extraocular muscles intact. The procedure is performed to reduce pain in a blind eye and to preserve a cosmetic appearance. After the contents inside the eye are removed, a prosthetic sphere is inserted inside the eye which replaces the contents that were removed during surgery (this is NOT a glass eye and cannot be removed). This maintains the round shape of the eye. Tear production, eyelid function (blinking), and eyeball movements all remain intact and normal after surgery.

Will my pet be able to see after surgery? No. This surgery is performed only on eyes that are already permanently blind.

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.

What kind of after care is needed after evisceration surgery? Two eye drops (an antibiotic and a tear replacement gel) will need to be administered 4 times daily for 10-14 days. Three oral medications will be sent home as well (a pain medication, an anti-inflammatory, and an antibiotic). These will need to be administered 1-2 times a day for 10 days following surgery. Moderate discharge and/or a blood tinged discharge from the eye will 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. 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.**

What will my pet's eye look like after evisceration surgery? The first few days (up to several weeks) after surgery, the eye can appear extremely red and/or cloudy as healing progresses. Some patients may also retain a cloudy appearance permanently. It may also appear enlarged (temporarily) in comparison to the other eye due to swelling of orbital tissues. Two weeks following surgery, blood vessels begin to grow into the cornea as part of the healing process. This changes the appearance of the eye but is only temporary. The eye may continue to change in appearance for up to 6 months following evisceration and prosthesis surgery (The eye will always remain cloudy to black in appearance, each patient may vary).

Can my pet experience an increase in eye pressure after surgery? No. All of the eye's inner contents, including the ciliary body (which normally produces the fluid inside the eye), have been permanently removed. Elevations in intraocular pressure are no longer a concern.

Will my pet still need eye drops after evisceration surgery? Temporary eye drops are sent home after surgery. Once these drops are gone, most pets do not require continual eye drop therapy. Eye drop therapy **will** be continued indefinitely for patients that have Dry Eye.

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. 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. Because your pet's eye still has a cornea and sclera after surgery, the eye can still be traumatized and damaged. While this is exceptionally rare, it could result in an ulcerated or scratched cornea and would require treatment with topical eye drops. Please contact us if you notice squinting or excessive rubbing of the eviscerated eye. 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 evisceration 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 _____