

Frequently Asked Questions-Non-Healing Ulcer (SCCED)

What kind of care is needed after surgery? An antibiotic eye drop will need to be administered 4 times a day for 2 weeks, as well as a pain eye drop (once a day for 5 days) and an anti-inflammatory ointment (twice a day for 2 weeks). Two oral tablets will be sent home as well (a pain medication and an anti-inflammatory) which will be administered 1-2 times a day for 10 days. We will schedule a recheck in 2 weeks. Your pet may be whiny and restless after this procedure. This is normal. Your pet will need time to adjust to wearing the e-collar and there may be some discomfort. Pain management will be prescribed to help with this.

My pet's eye is still cloudy, is this normal? **YES.** The eye may appear cloudy over the next 10-14 days as the ulcer is healing. Scar tissue may also cause the cornea to appear cloudy and dull even after the ulcer has healed and may persist for months, gradually fading over time. Although cloudiness may still be present, this does not necessarily mean the ulcer has not healed. In some cases, a red/pink tissue (granulation tissue) will appear on the cornea during the healing process. This is a normal, but exaggerated response to healing, and can impair vision. Treatment with an additional eye drop may be necessary.

How long will it take for my pet to stop squinting? **10-14 days.** Because the ulcer generally gets larger after the procedure, it is normal for your pet to be squinting. The squinting should gradually decrease in severity over the next 10-14 days as the ulcer heals. There should be progressive improvement in comfort level. If your pet acts comfortable, and then a few days later begins to squint again, please contact us.

How long will my pet have to wear the e-collar? **Your pet MUST wear a protective collar AT ALL TIMES until the recheck.** This is a necessary part of the post-operative treatment. The cornea 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.** If the cone becomes damaged, it is OK to place duct tape over any cracks. But if any areas of the cone have pieces or chunks missing or have jagged edges, it's time to replace it with a new cone or it may be time to consider the "bucket cone" style. Please visit our website and click on the "Forms" tab, or call our office for more information.

What happens if the procedure doesn't work? A small percentage of patients will require an additional procedure, which involves heat treating the cornea. If this occurs, the additional procedure will be done at no extra charge, however additional rechecks and fluorescein stain charges will apply (one recheck and fluorescein stain is included in the original procedure).

Can this happen again or in the other eye? **YES.** This type of ulcer is an age-related ulcer that forms spontaneously due to development of a hyalinized (glassy) membrane just beneath the surface layer of the cornea. Generally, when a patient develops this type of ulcer, the membrane covers the entire surface of the cornea and is entirely removed during the procedure. Wherever the membrane has been removed, this type of ulcer should not develop again. NOTE: In rare cases, the membrane cannot be entirely removed at the time of the procedure, and there is a possibility of developing this type of ulcer in the same eye (in a different location). This type of ulcer can also occur in the other eye. The shorter the dog's muzzle, the more likely this is to occur.