

APPOINTMENT INFO

Thank you for choosing VEI to provide animal eye care. Your discharge paperwork will be emailed to you within 24 hours of your appointment. If your pet has been prescribed medication, please follow the dosing instructions. Please also make sure your pet wears the e-collar, as this will help protect them from re-injury or other complications.

Recheck Appointment Details

Your pet's next appointment is scheduled for:

If you have questions or concerns between now and then, please call. We appreciate the favor of 24-hours' notice should you need to reschedule your pet's appointment.

How is dry eye treated?

The most important medications in the treatment of dry eye are tacrolimus or cyclosporine. Tacrolimus and cyclosporine medications are tear stimulating medications, and can take up to 6 weeks to cause a positive change. These medications increase natural tear production, decrease inflammation, and lessen irritation to the eye. We may also prescribe other medications to alleviate discomfort while we await the effects of the tear stimulating medications.

In addition to increasing tear production, other medications such as antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and artificial tears may be used to provide extra support and lubrication to the eye. The excess mucus buildup around the eye is secondary to the dry eye condition and it is recommended to gently clean this off your pet as needed.

Occasionally patients with loss of nerve impulses are treated with pilocarpine given by mouth. This medication stimulates the lacrimal gland. Unfortunately, pilocarpine may also stimulate glands all over the body causing salivation, vomiting, diarrhea or decreased appetite.

Unfortunately, some patients do not respond to therapy making other treatments, such as surgery, necessary.

What are the keys to effectively managing dry eye?

1. Most patients with dry eye will do well if medications are administered on a regular basis. Lifelong medication is often necessary.

In cases where medicines do not work, surgical techniques may be considered.

Cyclosporine implants can be placed around the eye using sedation or general anesthesia.

A **parotid duct transposition** or **PDT** (surgical movement of a duct from a saliva producing gland) is available. The **PDT** is needed in patients who have had no response to medication. This involves redirecting a salivary duct from the mouth to the eye so that saliva substitutes for tears. The operation is not without problems or future complications and is recommended only after an intense effort has been made to treat the condition with medication alone.

2. Your patience and determination are critical to your pet's comfort because medical attempts to correct the condition may take weeks to months, or may never be entirely successful. Even if normal tear production never returns, you can provide increased comfort to your pet and usually preserve vision.
3. Providing eye lubrication during the treatment period is very important because keeping the eyes moist decreases corneal scarring.
4. After controlled with an antibiotic - Please clean your pet's eyes and face daily with a clean washcloth to prevent buildup.

Dry Eye

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Veterinary Eye
INSTITUTE

