

Uveitis

Frequently Asked Questions

The uvea is the major blood supply to the eye and is comprised of the iris, ciliary body, and choroid. These major structures of the eye are very sensitive and perform numerous functions required for ocular homeostasis and vision. Uveitis is inflammation of these structures and results in pain, cloudiness to the intraocular fluids, and in severe cases, glaucoma, and blindness.

Uveitis can occur for many reasons, and depending on what the ophthalmologist finds on your pet's examination, they may be able to determine the most likely cause. Further diagnostics with blood tests, radiographs, or ultrasounds may be recommended. Often some medications will be started on the day of your eye examination, but other medications may be started after initial tests are run.

What are the causes of uveitis in dogs

Causes of uveitis in dogs include:

- Tick born disease such as Ehrlichia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Rickettsia, and Lyme Disease
- Fungal infection such as Blastomycoses, Aspergillus, Histoplasmosis, Cryptococcosis, or Coccidiomycosis
- Parasitic disease due to intestinal parasites or heartworm disease
- Neoplasia (cancer) of the eye, or cancer of another area of the body that has spread to the eye
- Immune-mediated (similar to Lupus or Rheumatoid arthritis in people), the body's immune system begins to attack the uvea, causing inflammation throughout the eye. This is a diagnosis of exclusion (rule out other causes) and usually responds well to treatment, but lifelong therapy is required to maintain control
- Idiopathic and Trauma

Important points in treating uveitis

- The cause of uveitis determines the recommended treatment.
- Regardless of the cause, uveitis requires treatment to try to prevent secondary glaucoma, permanent blindness, and pain.
- Medications should be continued unless specifically instructed to discontinue them, even if you feel your pet is improving. Discontinuing medications too soon can cause severe relapse of disease and secondary complications.
- Contact us if your pet begins to show new symptoms with the eyes or contact your family veterinarian if your pet has vomiting, diarrhea, or lethargy.

What are the causes of uveitis in cats

Causes of uveitis in cats include:

- Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), which cannot be spread to people
- Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV, also known as feline AIDS), which cannot be spread to people
- Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) disease complex caused by a coronavirus, which cannot be spread to people
- Bacterial infections such as mycoplasma and bartonellosis. Rarely Bartonella can spread to people, especially those who are immunocompromised by other diseases or chemotherapy
- Parasitic infections such as toxoplasmosis which can spread to people, especially those who are immunocompromised by other diseases or chemotherapy
- Fungal infection such as Blastomycoses, Histoplasmosis, Cryptococcosis, or Coccidiomycosis
- Parasitic disease due to intestinal parasites or heartworm disease
- Neoplasia (cancer) of the eye, or cancer of another area of the body that has spread to the eye
- Idiopathic and Trauma
- Immune-mediated

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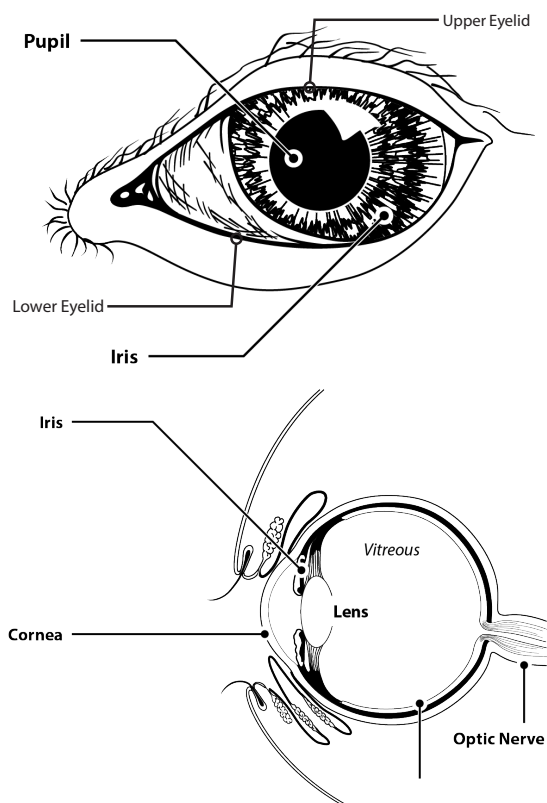
What are the recommended diagnostics for your pet?

Based on the ocular examination findings, the ophthalmologist recommends the following tests as part of your pet's best care plan:

- Complete Blood Count (CBC):** This is a blood test that evaluates red blood cell, white blood cell, and platelet counts to determine if they are abnormal related to your pet's uveitis. If cancer is present in the bone marrow, it will also likely show up on this test.
- Chemistry Profile:** This is a blood that evaluates for severe liver and kidney disease as well as shows electrolyte and protein levels in the blood to determine if they are abnormal related to your pet's uveitis.
- Tick titers:** This is a blood test that evaluates for exposure to tick disease and determines if a tick-borne infection is likely the cause of your pet's uveitis. This test is very sensitive to rule out tick related disease.
- Fungal titers:** This is a blood or urine test that supports whether fungal infection is likely the cause of your pet's uveitis. This test is very specific to diagnose fungal infection, but sometimes there are false-negative results.
- Cancer screening:** Radiographs of the chest and an abdominal ultrasound performed by a radiologist are common tools for screening for cancer. If signs of cancer are found elsewhere in the body, samples can be taken non-invasively to help try to obtain a complete diagnosis, prognosis, and therapy options.

- Urinalysis:** This is a urine test evaluating your pet's overall urinary tract (kidneys and bladder) health and providing insight on your pet's glucose regulation and kidney function.

Other:



About VEI

Veterinary Eye Institute (VEI) is the leading veterinarian owned and led network of stand-alone ophthalmology practices dedicated to making the world a visually clear and comfortable place for pets. VEI offers complete medical and surgical eye care for dogs, cats, horses, small mammals, and exotic pets.

To learn more about VEI's services and team or to find a location near you, visit veterinaryeyeinstitute.com.