

Elizabethan Collars

Your pet has been custom-fitted with a plastic Elizabethan collar, or "E-collar." This will aid in healing by preventing your pet from pawing or rubbing the eye on furniture, carpet, or pillows, and causing further trauma to the eye.

We understand this can be frustrating and inconvenient for pets and owners. But keep in mind that the animals are not aware when they are inflicting further damage to the eye if it is unprotected. Most patients take 1-3 days to adjust, so please refrain from taking the E-collar off or trimming it! The length of the E-collar is very important, since the edge needs to be a certain distance from the eye.

Here are some tips for dealing with e-collar usage:

My pet can't get around very well...

- Pets often have trouble judging distance allowances with the collar on, so expect your pet to bump into walls and furniture.
- Peripheral vision and hearing might also be reduced by the e-collar.
- Do not let your pet outside unattended.

My pet won't move...

- Encourage them with treats and be patient.
- Do your best to keep their routine the same.
- Speaking to your pet with too much sympathy can have an adverse effect.

My pet won't eat or drink...

- Elevate their dish 2-4 inches using a phone book, heavy crock dishes, etc. Try the bottom of a large coffee mug for cats or flat-faced dogs.
- Add junior baby food (chicken or beef) or low-sodium chicken broth to warm food.
- Hand feed and water.

My pet won't go to the bathroom...

- Be patient for the first 12-24 hours.
- For cats, keep their litter clean at all times and use a large box with no top.
- Take dogs out for frequent walks.
- Do call our office if there is no elimination in 24 hours, or if there is straining.

My pet's ears smell...

- Keep their collar dry to decrease ear infections.
- Trim the hair around your pet's face and ears if it's long.

My pet's neck is raw...

- Keep their neck dry.
- Try a sleeve from an old sweatshirt or a few mini-pads taped around the inside edges of the collar as padding.
- Dry with a hair dryer several times a day if moisture is a problem.

My pet needs a bath...

- Bathe only from the neck down. The face may be cleaned with a warm, moist washcloth with no soap, being very careful of the eyes.
- After bathing, make sure the neck is dry.
- Professional grooming is not advised until approved by your doctor.

I have other pets in my household...

- If fellow pets play with the patient and/or lick the patient's eyes, they need to be separated from each other.