
Cataract Removal Discharge Information

Your pet has undergone delicate intraocular surgery. As with any other surgery, aftercare is very important in determining how well your pet will recover. There are many things that need close attention from you in order to keep the recovery smooth and uneventful. Below are some of the common concerns of owners, but if you notice anything out of the ordinary, please call us. It's better to be safe than sorry!

Discharge

It's normal for your pet to have slight yellow or pinkish discharge for a few days after surgery. White or clear discharge is also normal. If the yellow or pinkish discharge persists for more than a few days, please contact us so we can take action to clear up the infection.

Redness

For up to 2 weeks after surgery (sometimes longer), the white part of your pet's eye will be red, especially the area right above the sutures. This is normal. If you notice your pet's eyes are only slightly pink and then become very inflamed, you should contact us immediately. When in doubt about whether the amount of redness is normal, please call. If the inside of the eye looks red, contact us immediately.

Cloudiness

Sometimes the eye may look cloudy on the inside. It's often necessary to leave part of the lens capsule (which contains the cataract) inside the eye. This capsule often appears to have white particles "floating" on the inside of the eye. These particles are of no concern and will not hinder your pet's vision. You may also sometimes notice white areas inside the eye, which may be scar tissue. Again, these do not inhibit your pet's vision, but are often noticeable. If you notice cloudiness on the surface of the eye (the cornea), please call us. This is sometimes (though not always) a sign of increased pressure in the eye.

Sutures

Your pet has sutures in the upper part of the eye where the cornea meets the white part of the eye. These sutures dissolve on their own, but may cause a slight reaction as they are healing. They may become slightly raised, slightly red, or may turn the cornea white as they heal and form a scar. Applying medications to this area will not hurt your pet or the sutures, but use caution so that no injury is sustained to the area around the sutures.

E-Collar

It is crucial that your pet be prevented from scratching or rubbing his or her eyes during the recovery period of cataract surgery. We recommend you keep the collar on for 3-4 weeks, and after that remove the collar only when your pet is under your direct supervision to be sure he doesn't scratch or rub. Your pet will still be able to eat, drink, and sleep with the collar on, though he may have some problem judging distance allowance between doorways and steps.

Bathing

We recommend against bathing your pet for the first 2 weeks. We realize this is difficult, particularly during flea season, but the risk of getting shampoo or dip in your pet's eyes is too great. After the first few weeks, bathing should be okay, but avoid his head, using the collar as a guide. Absolutely no swimming is allowed for at least 3 months.

Activity

For the first 2 weeks, we suggest leash walking instead of allowing your pet to run freely in the yard. Any kind of rough-housing should be discontinued, as well as ball-throwing, running, jumping up or down from furniture, and running up and down stairs. We also recommend that you confine your pet to a small area if you have to leave them. Obviously, your pet will get excited when you return home from work or errands. This is fine, but we don't recommend any strenuous activities that could increase blood pressure (and eye pressure).

Medications

Please do not run out of medications!! It is so important to keep treating your pet until his next appointment. We can mail prescriptions to you, call them into a human pharmacy, check if your local veterinarian carries them, or you may come by and pick them up at our clinic. You can even submit refill requests to us via email at refills@vostn.com!

If you have any questions at any time, please call us! We are here to take care of your pet's eye health and comfort, and we are not inconvenienced even slightly by any questions or concerns you may have.