VETERINARY OPHTHALMOLOGY

Ophthalmology deals with anatomy, function, pathology and treatment of the eye in all species of animals. If your animal shows subtle or obvious signs that could indicate eye disease, early diagnosis and treatment by your veterinarian or veterinary ophthalmologist is the key to maintaining vision and comfort.

SIGNS, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

SIGNS

Conjunctivitis: redness, tearing and discomfort
Acorneal ulcer: opacity, sensitivity to light, discharge
Papilledema: swollen optic nerve head
Uveitis: pain, photophobia, decreased vision
Keratoconjunctivitis: redness, tearing, discomfort
(In the cat: Feline Keratoconjunctivitis: pink plaque over cornea, squinting or tearing)
KCS or “Dry Eye” (redness or swelling of the conjunctiva, squinting or tearing)
Retinal detachment: sudden vision loss
Cataracts: partial or total vision loss
Intraocular tumors: pain, photophobia, decreased vision
Glaucoma: pain, sudden vision loss
Aging changes: cataracts and intraocular tumors

DIAGNOSIS

The clinical examination includes assessment of the ocular surface, biomicroscopy, visual acuity assessment, fundus examination and orbital palpation.

TREATMENT

Restoring vision

Cataracts

The lens helps to focus light onto the retina, where light energy is converted into electrical energy; this can be impaired by cataracts. A cataract is an opacity, which causes light to scatter across the visual field, leading to decreased vision. Cataracts, sometimes resulting in vision loss. Depending on the cause, cataracts may or may not progress to total blindness. Coloured surgery is the most commonly performed surgical procedure in Britain. Cataract surgery is also commonly referred to the Ophthalmology Service at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at UC Davis, particularly for dogs, cats and horses.

Cataracts are a leading cause of visual impairment in dogs, mostly due to inherited genetic defects. Sometimes cataracts in dogs are associated with inherited eye disease. Advanced age is a common cause of cataracts. Early detection of cataracts in your veterinarian may help to limit blood and urine tests for diabetes. Cats are frequently presented to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at UC Davis, particularly for dogs, cats and horses.

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