

9901 South U.S. Hwy 17-92  
Maitland, FL 32751  
407-629-0044 Ext. 1  
407-629-0602 Fax

11011 Lake Underhill Rd  
Orlando, FL 32825  
407-629-0044 Ext. 1

AnimalEyeGroup.com



**ANIMAL  
EYE**  
ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Daniel R. Priehs, D.V.M.  
Diplomate, A.C.V.O.

Heidi M. Denis, D.V.M.  
Diplomate, A.C.V.O.

Melanie Church, D.V.M.  
Diplomate, A.C.V.O.

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## **CORNEAL STROMAL DYSTROPHY & DEGENERATION**

Corneal stromal dystrophy and corneal stromal degeneration are diseases that cause a white opacity in the cornea. The white opacity may be fat, cholesterol, or calcium deposits.

### **Corneal stromal dystrophy:**

This is suspected to be a hereditary condition that has been reported in numerous breeds including: Siberian Husky, Miniature Schnauzer, Shetland Sheepdog, American Cocker Spaniel, Boxer, Beagle. It may begin in one eye, but most often eventually develops in both eyes. Stromal dystrophy usually does not affect ocular comfort or vision. In most cases, treatment is not required, although monitoring for progression may be recommended. Additionally, blood work may be recommended to evaluate the cholesterol, triglyceride, calcium and thyroid hormone levels. If elevated triglycerides are identified on blood work, lower fat diets may be recommended.

### **Corneal stromal degeneration:**

Corneal stromal degeneration may be secondary to corneal or other ocular inflammation, an underlying systemic condition, or an age-related degeneration. Stromal degeneration can affect both vision and ocular comfort. Blood work may be recommended to evaluate cholesterol, triglyceride, calcium and thyroid hormone levels. Long-term topical medications may reduce future mineral deposits. However, the deposits that are already present usually cannot be reversed. Dogs with corneal stromal degeneration are at higher risk for corneal ulcers, and when ulcers develop the degeneration can interfere with healing. Please contact our office if you notice squinting, increased ocular discharge, redness, or increasing cloudiness.