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## LENS INDUCED UVEITIS

### **What is lens induced uveitis?**

Lens induced uveitis is an inflammatory reaction inside the eye caused by reaction to either cataracts or ruptured lens. It is most commonly seen when cataracts form very quickly, or when they are advanced. It is also a normal response after cataract surgery.

### **What are the signs of lens induced uveitis?**

The signs vary, and may be subtle and only obvious to an ophthalmologist with special examination equipment. The signs that you or your veterinarian may notice include redness of the white of the eye and tearing.

### **Why is lens induced uveitis a problem?**

Inflammation within the eye, if severe, can lead to pain and changes within the eye which can cause permanent blindness. If a cataract surgery is planned, uveitis lowers the success rate of the surgery and can even prevent surgery. It is extremely important to have any inflammation within the eye well controlled before cataract surgery is attempted. After cataract surgery the inflammation must be controlled or severe scarring can result, leading to loss of vision and/or glaucoma.

### **How is lens induced uveitis treated?**

Topical and/or systemic drugs will be used to control the inflammatory reaction. These usually include corticosteroid and anti-prostaglandin type drugs. Drugs to dilate the pupil may also be given. It is extremely important to follow discharge instructions carefully to get the best possible response to therapy and outcome after surgery.

### **Are there side effects of the treatment?**

Systemic corticosteroids usually cause the following changes: increased thirst, increased appetite, increased panting and increased urination. If you pet is allowed to overeat, then weight

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gain will also occur. These changes are sometimes seen with topical corticosteroid, but are less common. If your pet is a diabetic, then the stress of the surgery and the medications will disrupt their blood sugar regulation. For this reason, we recommend closely monitoring your pet's urine glucose levels.

### **How long will I have to treat my pet?**

The response to therapy depends on many factors, the most important being the severity of the inflammation and the consistent administration of medication. The average pet will have to be treated for 1-2 weeks before cataract surgery. Sometimes it is very difficult to control the inflammation and treatment may be given for several weeks. Treatment is continued for several months after surgery.