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NUCLEAR SCLEROSIS

Nuclear sclerosis, also called lenticular sclerosis, is a normal aging change. It is a result of the progressive thickening of the lens as the eye ages. Nuclear sclerosis usually begins at about six-years-old in the dog, older in the cat and becomes more noticeable with age. Depending on the angle of the light entering the eye, the lens may look clear or cloudy.

Nuclear sclerosis affects your pet's ability to focus and decreases the near vision. The same changes occur in people and result in the need for bifocals. Usually nuclear sclerosis does not become severe enough in dogs to affect distance vision. In most cases of nuclear sclerosis, cataract surgery is not indicated. However, cataract surgery may be considered in some cases where the nuclear sclerosis is dense enough to significantly impair vision.