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**ANIMAL
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UVEAL CYST

Overview

Uveal cysts are frequent findings in dogs and are thought to be congenital or acquired. The cysts arise from the pupil margin or behind the iris and can be free-floating or pedunculated/attached. They occur most frequently in Golden Retrievers, Labradors, Great Danes, English Setters and Boston Terriers. Potential consequences of large uveal cysts include visual impairment, pigment dispersion on the lens and/or inner corneal surface, mechanical interference with the function of the iris and obstruction of fluid flow out of the eye.

Causes

While inflammation and trauma have been proposed as possible underlying causes, most uveal cysts are first noted in adult dogs and occur spontaneously. Uveal cysts are usually benign incidental findings. In Golden Retrievers, and Great Danes uveal cysts may be associated with intraocular inflammation and/or glaucoma.

Treatment

Because most uveal cysts are benign, non-painful and do not significantly interfere with vision treatment often is simply monitoring by periodic rechecks with your veterinary ophthalmologist. However, if the uveal cyst(s) occlude the pupil or the drainage angle inside the eye and/or impair vision then cyst removal may be recommended. Uveal cyst removal is most commonly performed using a non-invasive diode laser that targets the pigmented cells in the cyst. Alternatively, a needle introduced into the eye may be used to perform the cyst deflation, particularly if there is little to no pigment in the cyst wall. Post-operatively, patients are usually put on a short-term course of topical anti-inflammatory treatment.