

GLAUCOMA



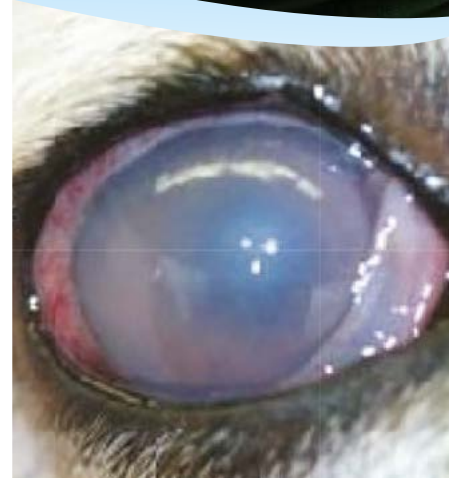
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The eye is full of fluid, which is constantly produced within and drained from the eye. In some circumstances, the drainage of this fluid may be impaired, leading to an increased pressure within the eye, and development of glaucoma. The pressure in the eye is measured during a consultation with a device called a tonometer.

Glaucoma is mainly a problem in dogs, and to a lesser extent cats and horses. Glaucoma is recognised with increased frequency in certain breeds of dog, because of 'faulty' drainage apparatus. The hereditary eye disease screening programme is working to reduce the incidence of breed-related canine glaucoma. Glaucoma may also develop as a result of another problem within the eye, such as instability of the lens or a growth within the which impairs the drainage of fluid.

Glaucoma is usually painful, and the affected eye is often red and cloudy. At higher pressures, vision may be reduced and eventually lost. Treatment of glaucoma is dependent on the underlying cause. Eye drops are often used to reduce pressure and preserve vision. Some cases of glaucoma can be very difficult to treat and occasionally surgery or removal of the eye is necessary.



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