

Eyes – When to Worry?

Eye conditions are often considered urgent as changes can happen very quickly, and quick treatment can be sight-saving in some cases.



Signs that indicate an eye problem include; runny eyes, holding the eyelids closed or squinting, rubbing the eyes, redness, cloudiness.

Some breeds of dogs and cats may have brown tear staining around the eyes due to the way the eyes are positioned. This is something that should be monitored at home and if anything changes the pet should be checked by a vet.

Runny eyes are probably the most common eye problems seen by vets. The discharge can vary from watery to mucus to pus and is often accompanied with redness to the eyes. Often a short course of eye drops prescribed by your vet can clear this up quickly.

Older animals often have a cloudy look to the lens of the eye. This is usually an old age change to the eye and usually does not affect vision. Sometimes cloudiness to the lens of the eye can be a cataract which does affect vision. The difference between a cataract and the normal old age change can easily be seen by your vet.

The surface of the eye may become cloudy and this needs prompt attention as things can change quickly if not treated. There are a few different causes of this and your vet will be to determine the cause and prescribe the correct treatment.

If your pet becomes blind suddenly, seek veterinary advice quickly. There are some conditions that can cause sudden onset blindness and a quick diagnosis of the cause will give the best chance of some return of their sight.

If there is something caught in the eye such as a thorn or a grass seed, urgent treatment is needed. Sometimes seeds can get stuck under the eyelids and can be removed easily. However there are times when thorns can puncture the surface of the eye and can cause severe problems and need prompt treatment.

If you are concerned about your pet's eyes it is safer to get a vet to look at them sooner rather than later as prompt treatment can then be prescribed.

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