



Animal Eye Clinic

of Waterloo Region

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EVISCERATION AND PROSTHESIS IMPLANTATION

What is evisceration?

Evisceration is the removal of the structures within the eye. It is an alternative to enucleation.

What is the difference between evisceration and enucleation?

Evisceration involves removing all of the structures inside of the eye including the inner ocular tissues, aqueous humour, and vitreous humour. A silicone prosthesis is then placed in the empty globe and the prosthesis is held in place by an external shell of cornea and sclera. The eyelids, extra ocular muscles, and globe are all left intact so that the eye still appears normal. The globe will move like a normal eye, but is non-visual. The cornea will take on a cloudy appearance.

An enucleation involves removing the entire globe and suturing the eyelids closed.

Why would I choose to have a prosthesis placed in my pet's eye?

Implanting a prosthesis into your pet's eye is for purely cosmetic purposes. Many people feel that they would prefer to look at their pet with two eyes, even if one of those eyes is not functional. The alternative is enucleation. Your pet will not know the difference, as there will be no vision in the affected side, no matter which surgery you choose.

Why does my pet need to have this surgery?

Your pet may need to have an eye removed for any number of reasons, including:

- Severe, untreatable trauma
- Uncontrollable glaucoma causing pain and irreversible blindness
- Congenital deformities

If the eye needs to be removed due to infectious or neoplastic (cancerous) diseases, enucleation is recommended. If you are not sure of the reasons for this surgery, please ask for more information.

What will my pet look like after the surgery?

It is common for the affected eye to look red after surgery due to the collection of blood inside the eye. This is completely normal and will disappear with time. It is normal for there to be a mild, blood-tinged discharge from the eye for a few days after the surgery. Once the eye has healed, the cornea will change to a blue hazy colour which may eventually change to brown.

What happens on the day of surgery?

Your pet will be given pain medication and will be placed under a general anesthesia. The technician will clip the area around the eye and prep the skin with antibacterial agents. The ophthalmologist will make an incision into the limbus at the edge of the cornea and the contents of the eye are removed through this incision. A silicone prosthesis is then placed through the incision and the incision line is sutured closed with absorbable suture.

What home care will be required after surgery?

Your pet will be sent home with an Elizabethan collar to be worn at all times. This will prevent your pet from damaging the surgery site. There will also be a number of topical medications to be given as directed. Your pet will be prescribed oral antibiotics, oral anti-inflammatories, and oral pain medication. We will schedule a recheck at one, and two weeks post-operatively. However, please call us if you have any concerns or questions.

What complications are associated with evisceration?

Evisceration leaves the outer structures of the eye intact, so it is possible for some animals to require treatments with eye medications over the course of their lives. Your pet is still at risk for some ocular diseases including: diseases of the cornea or conjunctiva, such as Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eye), conjunctivitis or corneal ulcers. As in a normal eye, these problems would need to be treated by your veterinarian to ensure that they heal properly. As in any surgery, there may be post-operative complications such as suture breakdown, infection, ulcerative keratitis, prosthesis rejection, and growth of an intraocular tumour. Your pet will need to be monitored for these conditions.