



UVEITIS TREATMENT AND FOLLOW-UP CARE

Anti-inflammatory corticosteroids and non-steroidal medications are the primary therapy for uveitis. These include both topical eye drops and oral medications. Oral antibiotics may be started if an infection is suspected, or prophylactically. Other treatments considered include mydriatic/cycloplegic therapy (pupil dilator to help relax the muscle that causes the pupil to constrict), oral pain medications, and specific therapy based on the underlying cause.

We often recommend pet patients return for a pressure check within the first few days after diagnosis to make sure that glaucoma (high pressure within the eye) has not developed. If the patient is doing well at home, we suggest they return for a recheck every 1-2 weeks until the disease is in remission. Once the inflammation is controlled, we gradually reduce the medical therapy and continue to closely monitor the pet for any signs of a relapse.

It is important to monitor these cases closely, because in some cases, there may be complications to uveitis that may lead to glaucoma, permanent vision loss, retinal detachment or cataract formation.

If monitored and treated appropriately, most cases of uveitis will be controllable, and pet patients will maintain their comfort and vision on a long-term basis.



ANIMAL VISION CENTER of VIRGINIA

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Visit us online at AnimalVisionCenterVA.com

 facebook.com/AVCVA

 instagram.com/AVCVA_STAFF

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

One Saturday a Month 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SUFFOLK CLINIC at THE COVE Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.
6550 Hampton Roads Parkway, Suffolk, VA 23435

SERVICES WE OFFER

Complete Exam & Diagnosis

Medical Therapy

Surgical Therapy

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) Eye Exams & Registration

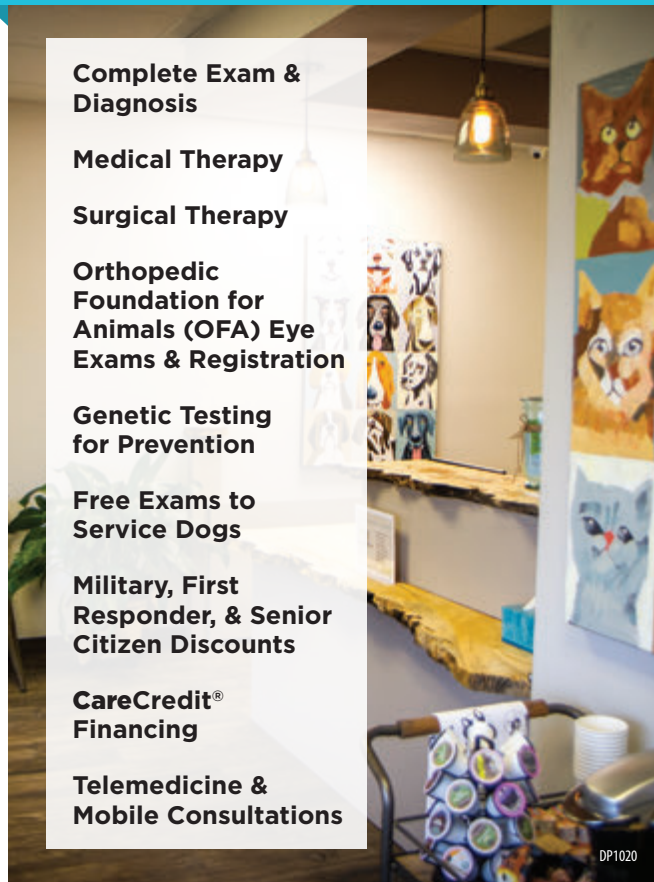
Genetic Testing for Prevention

Free Exams to Service Dogs

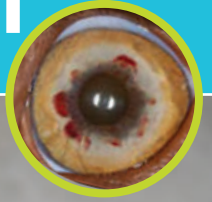
Military, First Responder, & Senior Citizen Discounts

CareCredit® Financing

Telemedicine & Mobile Consultations



UVEITIS CAUSES & TREATMENT



 **ANIMAL VISION CENTER of VIRGINIA**

Providing quality ophthalmic care for animals of all shapes and sizes so they can see a better life

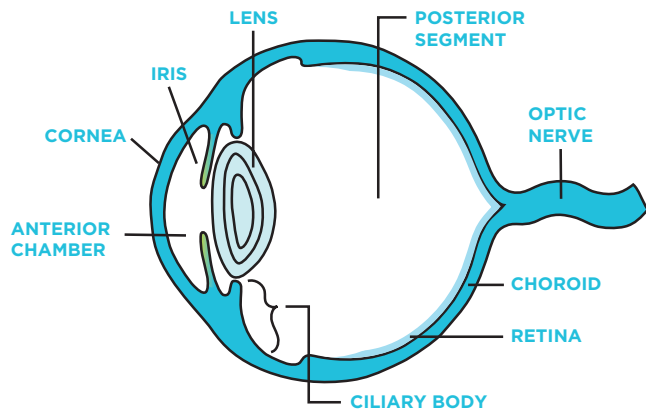
WHAT IS UVEITIS?

Uveitis is inflammation of the uveal tract, the vascular tissue within the eye. This tissue plays many roles in the overall health of the eye. It provides nutrients to ocular structures, helps regulate intraocular pressure, supports the important barrier between the blood and the eye, maintains clarity of the fluid within the eye and supplies nutrition to the retina (an important structure for vision). Disorders of the uvea often lead to alterations in vision, intraocular pressure and comfort.

UVEAL ANATOMY

The uveal tract is composed of three parts:

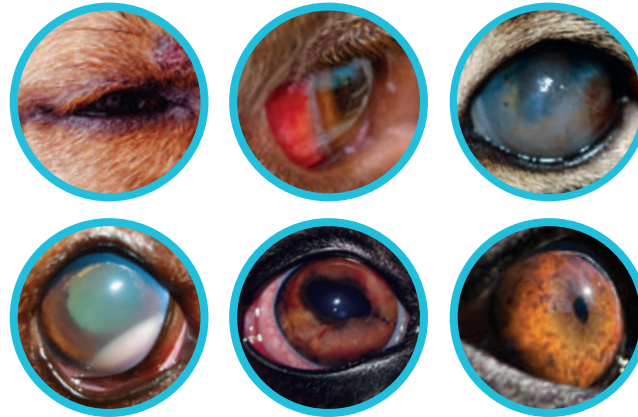
- **Iris**, or colored part of the eye
- **Ciliary body**, located just behind the iris, which forms the fluid within the eye
- **Choroid**, located in the back of the eye behind the retina



The specific pathophysiology of uveitis depends on the underlying cause, but in all cases, there is a breakdown of the blood-eye barrier that normally keeps cells and large proteins from entering the eye. When the uveal tract becomes inflamed, white blood cells can enter the eye and cause damage to the eye. Based on the primary location of entry, uveitis is subclassified into **anterior uveitis** (inflammation of the front of the eye), **posterior uveitis** (inflammation of the back of the eye) or **panuveitis** (inflammation of all portions of the eye).

SYMPTOMS

Common clinical signs of uveitis include: squinting, tearing, red eye, cloudy cornea, hazy anterior chamber, blood or white blood cells in the bottom of the eye, change in iris color or shape, swollen iris, small pupil and decreased vision.



TESTING

When uveitis is suspected, the following clinical tests are recommended:

Complete physical and ocular exam:

- Slit-lamp exam, to look for aqueous "flare," a hallmark sign.
- Fundus exam, to look for evidence of vision-threatening posterior uveitis.
- Tonometry, to measure intraocular pressure.
- Fluorescein stain, to rule out a corneal ulcer.

Labwork considerations:

- Complete blood count (CBC), biochemistry panel and urinalysis.
- infectious disease testing panels, appropriate to patient history and species.

Imaging considerations:

- Chest X-rays and abdominal ultrasound, to look for evidence of cancer or infection in the body.



WHAT CAUSES UVEITIS?

It can be difficult to determine the cause of uveitis. Determining one, however, is necessary due to the potential threat to vision or the possibility of a more significant systemic disease.

The top three causes of uveitis fall into the broad categories of infectious, immune-mediated, and neoplastic disease, however uveitis can also occur secondary to disease of the lens, or other metabolic, vascular, traumatic, toxic, or reflexive causes.

Common causes of uveitis in dogs and cats include auto-immune issues, trauma, high blood pressure, cataract formation, or secondary to systemic infection or cancer. It also may occur secondary to a corneal ulcer, known as reflex uveitis.

Finally, in approximately 50% of cases in dogs and cats, we are unable to find a specific underlying cause, and consider the uveitis to be idiopathic. This diagnosis is made by exclusion, meaning we have to rule out the other more serious causes first before reaching this diagnosis.

DID YOU KNOW?

Golden Retrievers can get a special type of heritable uveitis called pigmentary uveitis, or **Golden Retriever uveitis**.

We keep an eye out for this when examining breeding dogs.

