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## Cherry Eye correction

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One of the most useful and efficient ways to convey information to you about your pet is via the written word. We carefully craft these notes to give you helpful information and accurate expectations around your pet's surgical experience.

**Please read this.** *Please save it and read it during each stage of the recovery process.* Surprises make for a stressful time for everyone.

Your pet has had a prolapsed gland of the 3rd eyelid ("cherry eye") repositioned to its normal location. This involves making a pocket in the 3rd eyelid and sewing it closed. There are stitches in the eyelid (that you probably can't see) that will dissolve and go away with time.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Please keep a note of your questions as you and your pet progress thru recovery and address them to your primary care veterinary team. Our surgery group will contact your primary care team on **Day 2** (after their phone follow-up with you) and **Day 14** (after your recheck visit with them) to check in on your pet's progress and see if you have had any concerns or questions. This method will maintain continuity in care and an accurate patient medical record.

### First few days postop

#### MONITORING

Please keep your pet in a comfortable, safe, indoor location without free access to stairs for the next 24 hours as he/she recovers from anesthesia and surgery.

Your pet may be groggy for the next few days. He or she may whine or appear more anxious than usual; this may indicate pain/discomfort or side-effects of the medications. Please call your primary care veterinary team for assistance with medication adjustments or return for exam and additional pain medications as needed.

Monitor appetite and attitude. *If both do not steadily improve over the next 2-3 days,* please call your primary care veterinary team or return for progress evaluation and problem-solving.

You can expect your pet to have a bowel movement within 5 days. Some animals take longer than others depending on when they last ate prior to surgery and when they started eating after surgery. It may be abnormal in color and consistency for 2-3 days. If you have any concerns, please speak with your primary care veterinary team.

Please confirm that your pet has urinated within 24 hours of returning home. If he/she does not, or you notice any problems related to urination, please speak with your primary care veterinary team.

Closely supervise your pet's movements over the first 3-4 days when s/he will be groggy from anesthetics and pain medications. Do not allow access to dangerous situations/locations (i.e. stairs, furniture, small children, other pets). Limit activities to necessary events only (on leash/out to go to the bathroom; access to food/water.)

## MEDICATIONS

It is likely that you have been prescribed one or more medications (given by mouth and/or topically for eye) for your pet over the first 2-3wks of recovery. During the discharge appointment or shortly thereafter, please make sure you understand:

- what each medication is being used to treat,
- what side-effects may develop, and
- whether or not the medication should be refilled and continued.

## MONITORING

The main concerns with this procedure are rubbing of the surgery site on the eyeball surface, external trauma to the eyeball surface from the patient rubbing/pawing their face, and early breakdown of the surgery site from too much rubbing/pawing at the face.

Please monitor for worsening of eye discomfort (squinting and tears) over the next two weeks. Call if any concerns about this.

It is necessary to have your pet wear an "ecollar" to prevent rubbing and pawing at the eye. You may remove, under supervision, for eating and drinking only.

Restrict activity to leash for 2-3wks until eye is completely quiet to avoid any bumping or injury to the eye while outdoors.

## **Week 1-2 postop**

### MONITORING

Please look at the eye twice daily. The eye and surrounding lids should look comfortable, without any squinting or copious discharge/tearing. If discomfort is noted, please contact your primary veterinary team for evaluation within 8hrs.

### PROGRESS EXAMS

Please return to your primary care clinic in 7-10 days for a progress exam. Eye comfort and gland stability will be evaluated, and any questions you have will be addressed.

### RESTRICTIONS

Avoid any rigorous activity for 2-3 weeks; no running, jumping, playing or anything that feels like “exercise”. For dogs, short, leashed walks around the yard to urinate/defecate are fine. Walking around one level of the house is fine. Prevent all pets from jumping up and down from furniture, etc. A bad landing or an awkward take-off can result in serious repercussions.

If your pet’s personality-type challenges these restrictions, discuss options for medicinal-assistance for your pet to make restrictions easier to manage (i.e. Trazadone, Gabapentin, Tramadol, other).

## **Long-term lifestyle**

Once the surgery site is well healed, there is minimal risk for the gland displacing in the future. Please have your veterinarian evaluate any eye discomfort or abnormal appearance.

### **Checklist:**

#### HOME MONITORING AND PROGRESS CHECK-IN WITH VETERINARY TEAM

- Pet attitude and appetite—Are these improving daily? What are your observations? What are your specific concerns?

- ❑ Pet mobility—Is this improving daily? What are your observations? What are your specific concerns?
- ❑ Eye health—Is redness and swelling going away? Is there discharge or moisture? (Photos taken close-up and at different angles are helpful for your primary care veterinary team.)
- ❑ Pet pain level—What are your observations? What are your specific concerns?
- ❑ Other

Based on your own experience through this, we welcome and encourage suggestions to this information that may help future patients and their people. Pay it forward! ([directvetsurg@gmail.com](mailto:directvetsurg@gmail.com))

--The DVS Crew