



# Animal Eye Clinic

## of Waterloo Region

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## **ENUCLEATION**

### **What is an enucleation?**

An enucleation is the removal of the eye. It is a surgical procedure, and it is irreversible.

### **Why does my pet need to have an enucleation?**

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
- Infection or inflammation of the eye that is unresponsive to treatment
- Tumors growing within the eye
- Congenital deformities
- Diseases that involve the orbit, which then affect the eye

Enucleation is the final option for relieving pain, especially if the animal is blind. Enucleation is usually only performed after all other methods of treatment have failed. If you are not sure of the reasons for enucleation, please ask for more information.

### **Will my pet miss the eye?**

Your pet will not know that the eye has been removed. Most owners are surprised at how much better their pet feels once their painful eye has been removed.

### **What happens on the day of surgery?**

Your pet will be given pain control medication and then be put under general anesthesia before the surgery. The technician will then clip the hair around the eye and prep the skin with antibacterial agents to prevent infection. In surgery, the ophthalmologist will remove the entire eyeball and will then insert a prosthesis (silicone ball) into the orbit; the wound is then sutured closed with suture material. The prosthesis is placed into the orbit to prevent the eyelids from sinking in and giving the site a 'hollow' look. After surgery, the incision site must be protected while healing so the animal will be sent home with an Elizabethan collar. There is usually some mild post-operative swelling and bruising at the surgical site, which is normal. Some animals will experience a small amount of blood oozing from the incision or from the nostril. With proper care these signs will resolve within a few days.

### **What will I need to do when my pet comes home?**

Your pet will need to be kept quiet for a few days after the surgery. You will need to follow the ophthalmologist's orders as far as administering medications and treatments. Most pets will be sent home on oral antibiotics and oral anti-inflammatories for 7-14 days after surgery. In some cases we will recommend that you apply cold packs to the incision site for a few minutes each day. The sutures will be removed 10-14 days after surgery. The incision site should be monitored for signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, pain, or pus-like discharge. The fur on the incision site will begin to grow back about a month after the surgery. A recheck will be scheduled for two weeks after the surgery. However, if you have any concerns at all about your pet, please don't hesitate to contact us.