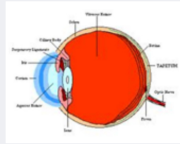


HEALTHY EYES



Hamish the border terrier had red eyes. He was rubbing them with his paws and woke each morning with a watery discharge, he was not his happy self.

Examination ruled out problems with his tear production, extra eyelashes that may cause irritation or the presence of a foreign body such as a grass seed. We applied special green dye to his eyes to check for damage to the windscreen of his eye, known as the

cornea.

There were no major problems and Hamish was diagnosed as suffering from allergic conjunctivitis.

Ointment was dispensed to help treat the problem and a revisit revealed the conjunctivitis had cleared.

Important Rules for Healthy Eyes:

See us if your pet:

- **Has one or both eyes closed or is squinting.**
- **Has swollen eyelids**
- **Has redness noticed on the white of the eye**
- **Has a sudden increase in discharge**
- **Is continually rubbing the eye/s**

Only ever wipe your pet's eyes with a damp cotton wool ball.

NEVER put your own eye drops in your pet's eyes as this may damage the eye.

Consider an eye problem as urgent until proven otherwise. Early treatment gives us the best chance to successfully treat the eye/s.

Always call the clinic if you are concerned.

VESTIBULAR SYNDROME



Vestibular Syndrome attacks are what we used to call Strokes, but advances in imaging have led us to realise that they're not quite the same, even though they appear just as suddenly and with some of the same symptoms.

Dogs can and occasionally do have strokes, but they tend to be less serious than in humans.

Vestibular events are slightly different, but often something of a mystery. The vestibular system - the inner ear - is about balance and so problems lead to classic signs of dizziness. There is staggering (ataxia), flicking of the eyes (nystagmus) from side to side, up and down or even rotationally, and a head tilt to one side.

Vestibular disease can have a number of causes: infections, from the brain itself or from the middle ear, cancer, poisonings, parasitism, immune disorders, occasionally as a sign of Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid), and commonly as an idiopathic event. Idiopathic basically means that we don't know the cause, but know that it isn't due to any underlying problem.

Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome is something that comes on unexpectedly, for unknown reasons, and then usually goes away on its own, albeit often with some residual signs like minor head tilt.

Even though we don't usually know the cause of Vestibular Syndrome, there are a number of useful drugs which are commonly used.

- **Anti-sickness drugs, to combat the motion sickness.**
- **Steroids**
- **Antibiotics**
-

Equally though, nursing and TLC is all-important for these pets:

- **Reassurance**
- **Palatable and digestible food**
- **Help with movement, but only enough to make up for what's lacking - your pets may only need support to get up.**
- **Frequent trips outside for balance and urination.**
- **Gentle and short walks in a straight line.**

It's important to note that because, by definition, we don't know what causes Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome, treatments and care are largely based on common sense and logic, but anything that reduces the recovery time, and make it more bearable for your pet, must be a good thing.

DOES MY PET NEED URGENT VETERINARY CARE



It isn't always easy for you to determine whether your pet needs to be seen by a vet immediately or not.

We are always happy for you to call us for advice. Most of the time, we will be able to give you an idea of the urgency of the problem over the phone.

Signs that your pet needs to be seen urgently may include:

- Ingestion or suspected swallowing of rat bait, human medications, harmful chemicals or pesticides, chocolate, sultanas or grapes (in dogs).
 - Difficulty breathing.
 - Bleeding that won't stop (apply pressure to the wound until you get to the vet).
 - Collapse.
 - Seizures, lack of balance.
 - Trauma such as a fall or being hit by a car.
 - Trouble passing urine (especially male cats).
 - Swollen, distended or painful stomach.
 - Signs of extreme pain; shaking, whining, not wanting to move.
 - Suspected broken bones.
 - Persistent vomiting and/or diarrhoea.
 - Trouble delivering puppies or kittens.
- Urgent Veterinary treatment is not limited to the above.
- Keep our phone number in an obvious and easy place to find and trust your instincts when deciding whether your pet needs urgent care.

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