



Canine Glaucoma

What is Canine Glaucoma?

Canine glaucoma is a serious eye condition that occurs when there is an increase in intraocular pressure (IOP) inside the dog's eye. This high pressure damages the retina and optic nerve, leading to progressive vision loss and, if left untreated or untreatable, blindness. Glaucoma in dogs can be primary (genetic) or secondary (caused as a result of another eye condition such as uveitis or cataracts). Primary glaucoma is more common in some breeds such as Cocker Spaniels, Basset Hounds and Siberian Huskies.

Symptoms of Glaucoma in Dogs

Recognising the signs early is crucial for preventing permanent vision damage. Symptoms include:



- Red or bloodshot eyes
- Dilated or unresponsive pupils
- Cloudy or bluish appearance to the cornea
- Eye or facial pain
- Reduction in vision
- Enlarged eye when the condition becomes chronic

How Is Glaucoma Diagnosed?

- **Intraocular Pressure (IOP) Measurement:** A tonometer is used to measure the pressure inside the eye. Normal IOP is between 10-25 mmHg; anything higher may indicate glaucoma.
- **Ophthalmic Examination:** A thorough eye exam, including checking the cornea, lens, and retina for signs of disease. Gonioscopy checks for primary glaucoma. An ultrasound may be required if the cornea is too opaque to adequately examine the internal structures of the eye.





Treatment Options for Canine Glaucoma

While glaucoma is not curable, it is treatable with prompt intervention to control the pressure and prevent further damage to the optic nerve:

Medications:

- **Eye Drops:** Drugs that reduce intraocular pressure, such as carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, beta blockers, or prostaglandins. These are required longterm.
- **Oral Medications:** Glauco + is a nutritional supplement that provide nutrients to the retina and offer neuroprotection to the optic nerve to prevent its degeneration. This contains citicoline, Ginkgo biloba, Vitamins B3, B9 and B12 with other beneficial ingredients.

Surgical Options

- **Laser Therapy:** Laser treatment may be used to reduce the amount of fluid manufactured in the eye.
- **Enucleation (Eye Removal):** In advanced stages of glaucoma where the eye is too damaged, removal of the eye may be necessary to relieve pain and get a specific diagnosis from a histopathology laboratory.

Important Tips for Dog Owners

- **Watch for Signs of Pain or Discomfort:** If your dog shows signs of eye discomfort (rubbing eyes, squinting), or is more withdrawn, seek veterinary care immediately.
- **Follow Treatment Plans Carefully:** Administer prescribed eye drops and medications as directed, even if your dog seems fine. Skipping treatments can lead to an increase in eye pressure.
- **Regular Vet Visits:** Routine eye exams are important for monitoring your dog's eye health, especially if your dog is at risk for glaucoma.
- **Consider the Risk of the Other Eye:** If one eye is affected by glaucoma, the other eye may be at increased risk, so close monitoring is essential.

Conclusion

Canine glaucoma is a serious condition that needs early detection and ongoing management. With prompt treatment, vision can often be preserved longer. However eye removal is required in some cases to alleviate pain.

