



Glaucoma



Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in middle aged dogs. It is defined as an abnormal buildup of fluid inside the eye. The buildup occurs when fluid does not drain properly through a filter between the cornea and sclera. This increase in fluid can destroy the retina and the optic nerve which can quickly cause blindness.

SYMPTOMS

The symptoms of glaucoma are very similar to other eye conditions. The most predominant symptoms include squinting, rubbing the affected eye, redness and lethargy. Be sure to contact us should your pet show any signs of irritation to the eye; waiting to treat eye conditions can make the condition worse.

TREATMENT

The key to successful treatment is early diagnosis. Here at Sharon Vet, any pet that presents for eye concerns will have an eye exam performed. A thorough eye exam will include a check of the eye pressure using the TonoVet Plus tonometer, a test to check tear production, and staining of the eye to check for ulcers. Should the pressure check find that the eye pressure is above normal, treatments will begin immediately in order to save vision in the affected eye and minimize pain. The objective for initial treatment is to decrease the pressure in the eye. A recheck with the tonometer might be necessary. If this course of action is unsuccessful, surgery may be necessary.

ANNUAL SENIOR GLAUCOMA SCREENING

We recommend that your pet receive a routine glaucoma exam as part of his or her regular senior wellness exam. This screening is not only an effective way to measure for chronic and acute glaucoma, it can also help set a baseline measurement of your pet's normal intraocular pressure for future comparison.

