



Silicone Prosthesis: A Cosmetic Alternative to Eye Removal

Why implant a prosthesis in my pet's eye?

Implanting a prosthesis is for cosmetic purposes only. Many people prefer this procedure to the alternative, which is removal of the eye (enucleation). Whether you chose a prosthesis or enucleation, your dog will no longer have vision on the affected side.

Why does my pet need this surgery?

There are many different reasons why removing an eye may be warranted. However, the most common reason is due to glaucoma which is causing severe pain and irreversible blindness.

Glaucoma is an increase in pressure inside the eye. It can be caused by a primary inherited disease, or can be secondary to another condition such as uveitis (inflammation inside the eye), luxation of the lens or a detached retina.

How is the surgery performed?

During surgery, the contents of the eyeball (the lens, the iris and the retina) are completely removed through an incision made at the top of the eyeball, leaving only the shell of the eye (the white of the eye and the clear cornea at the front). A black silicone ball is then placed inside the eye, and the incision closed with dissolvable sutures. All the muscles and tissues (including the eyelids) remain as they were prior to surgery. The eye moves in the socket and the eyelids blink as they always have.

How will my pet look after surgery?

After prosthesis surgery, the eye will look very red as blood has collected inside the eye, behind the cornea during surgery. This is completely normal, and will subside over time, much like a bruise. The white of the eye will also appear red due to swelling; this too is normal and will also subside.

In the days immediately following surgery, do not be alarmed if you notice bloody (or blood tinged) discharge from the affected eye – this is to be expected. The discharge can be gently removed with a moist Kleenex.

After surgery, your pet will need to wear an Elizabethan Collar (a 'cone') for several weeks as the surgical site heals. This collar is worn to prevent him from damaging the eye with his paw, or rubbing against furniture, door jams, etc. The doctor will indicate when the collar may be removed, once the eye has completely healed. Once healed, the cornea usually changes colour; sometimes it will become brown, but more often it will become a hazy blue.



Is home care required after surgery?

When discharged from our clinic, the ophthalmologist will prescribe an antibiotic ointment (or drops) for you to administer at home. This can be given by lifting your dog's nose upward, gently pulling the skin above the eye back, to open the eye and placing a drop directly

onto the eye. Be careful to avoid touching the eye with the tip of the bottle when administering drops or ointment.



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Oral antibiotics will also be prescribed for your pet. Please give them as directed, until finished. You may find your pet is reluctant to take this medication. Should this be the case, try hiding the medication inside a tasty treat. If he still proves difficult to medicate, please do not hesitate to contact us for further assistance.

Will my pet need follow-up care?

To ensure the eye is healing properly, the doctor will need to see your pet the week following surgery, and again a few weeks later, to ensure the eye has completely healed. If your pet is at risk of developing the same problem in his other eye, the ophthalmologist will discuss continued treatment, including the need for regular follow-up care, enabling him to closely monitor the health of the intact eye.

If you have any questions about this procedure either before or after surgery, please do not hesitate to contact us. We understand your pet is an important member of your family, and we appreciate the trust you place in us when you leave him on our care. We are happy to do all we can to answer your questions, and help ease your concerns.

Thank you for choosing the Toronto Animal Eye Clinic for your pet's ophthalmic care.