

congenital condition goes, I have come to accept glaucoma as a part of my favorite breed.

What to Watch for and How Quickly You Should React

As a veterinary technician, I can tell you that eye issues go from nothing to “something” very quickly. Therefore, I always recommend you take your dog in right away for any eye problems. I have no hard rules, but if your dog has a red eye, or is squinting or rubbing the eye, then in my opinion they should be seen sooner rather than later. If you think there is a size difference between the eyes, make an appointment immediately. If you feel things just aren’t right, they probably aren’t, and I recommend a vet visit.



A Personal Story About Glaucoma

by Elaine Wilson

One spring Saturday morning, our Entle came in from doing her outside business and was squinting her right eye—it was watering. I thought she must have run into a branch or something, but as the day progressed, her eye seemed to be more painful. A visit to the vet didn’t really provide any answers, as no injury could be seen. She was given some drops to treat redness and irritation. I called the vet again after two days with no improvement. We were sent to an ophthalmologist via the emergency vet clinic in town. By now, our dog’s vision in her right eye was gone.

Primary glaucoma in dogs hits forcefully and painfully. Usually, by the time the diagnosis is made, it is too late to save vision, and treatment becomes comfort-related for the affected eye. I keep thinking that had we acted very quickly and asked for a pressure measurement at the initial vet contact, we could have moved to treatment immediately and perhaps (I know, not likely) salvaged a sliver of vision.

Web Resources

1. Veterinary Partner – Glaucoma (public) - <https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=6097123>
2. Animal Eye Care website (public) - <http://animaleyecare.net/diseases/glaucoma/>
3. VIN - a private forum for veterinarians

I am not a veterinarian. My best advice is, when in doubt, speak to your pet’s regular veterinarian—that person is the one *best* able to help you. However, if you have questions or just want to talk, I’m always happy to speak with people and answer questions to the best of my abilities. I can be reached by email at lturtleb@shaw.ca or by phone or text at 250.702.4416.

Our next concern became how to protect the vision in our dog’s other eye. Our consultations with veterinary ophthalmologists revealed many different approaches to glaucoma—from eye drops only, to laser treatments and valve placement. We received very different opinions from different doctors, e.g., “when, not if, the remaining eye will lose sight,” “take these supplements,” “maybe, if you want, we can try some laser,” and “we have options that have had some success—laser and/or valve placement.”

Availability of treatments can be very limited due to the scarcity of veterinary ophthalmologists. Living in a large city allowed us to consult more than one ophthalmologist and have choices about treatment paths to pursue. We opted to actively try to preserve our dog’s remaining vision by having an Ahmed valve placed, and later some laser therapy. She did eventually lose her sight, but according to the vet, the treatments doubled her length of time without blindness.



**So, You Want to Show Your Entle?
Part 5: Agility
will be in the Feb. 2020 issue!**

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