

# GLAUCOMA TESTING



Glaucoma is a serious eye disease that can lead to blindness. It occurs when the fluid inside the eye does not drain out as fast as new fluid is being made. Like overfilling a balloon, the eyeball becomes larger and tightly stretched. The white of the eye becomes inflamed and the clear window part, the cornea, becomes cloudy from swelling. The pressure within the eye squeezes the retina at the back of the eye until it is destroyed. This can all happen slowly and gradually, or rapidly, depending on the cause. Whether fast or slow the increased pressure is very painful. People with glaucoma describe it as feeling like having an ice pick in their eye.

13 million people in the U.S. have glaucoma but only half know they have it. Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in people over 60 and African Americans of all ages. Glaucoma is also a leading cause of blindness in pets.

Cataracts, uveitis and other eye disorders can cause glaucoma. Many breeds of dogs and cats have a hereditary tendency towards this disease. It also becomes more common with advancing age. Glaucoma is a painful and progressive disease, leading eventually to blindness, whatever the cause.

Testing for glaucoma is easy. A few drops of a numbing solution and a simple measurement with a tool called a Tonopen can tell us within minutes if your pet has the disease. When diagnosed early it can be treated before blindness and severe pain occur.

We can test your pet for glaucoma as part of the routine physical exam, for only \$5 more than a regular exam fee. Please let us know if you want this testing for your pet!

## Dog Breeds with a Predisposition to Glaucoma

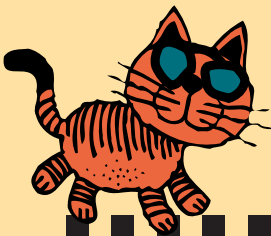
*From Glaucoma in the Dog and Cat by D.E. Brooks Vet Clinic, North America 1990*

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|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Afghan               | Chihuahua                | Manchester Terrier   | Sealyham Terrier            |
| Akita                | Chow Chow                | Miniature Pinscher   | Shih Tzu                    |
| Alaskan Malamute     | Cocker Spaniel           | Norfolk Terrier      | Siberian Husky              |
| Basset Hound         | Dachshund                | Norwegian Elkhound   | Smooth-Coated Fox Terrier   |
| Beagle               | Dalmation                | Norwich Terrier      | Tibetan Terrier             |
| Border Collie        | Dandie Dinmont Terrier   | Pembroke Welsh Corgi | Welsh Springer Spaniel      |
| Boston Terrier       | English Springer Spaniel | Poodle               | Welsh Terrier               |
| Bouvier Des Flandres | Giant Schnauzer          | Saluki               | West Highland White Terrier |
| Cairn Terrier        | Great Dane               | Samoyed              | Whippet                     |
| Cardigan Welsh Corgi | Maltese                  | Scottish Terrier     | Wire-Haired Fox Terrier     |

## Cat Breeds with a Predisposition to Glaucoma

*From the AVMA lecture by K. Ketring Reno 1997*

Persians Slamese Domestic Short-Hair



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