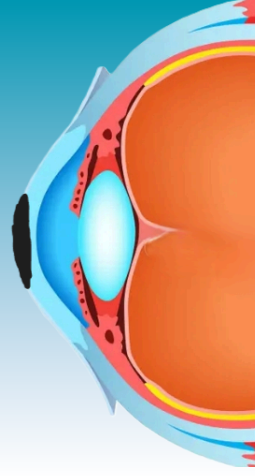




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Corneal Sequestrum



A corneal sequestrum is a distinctive brown-black lesion of dead corneal tissue, most commonly observed in felines.

What does the condition look like?

- A dark brown or black, often raised, spot on the eye's surface, sometimes described as "tea-stained."
- Typically located in the centre of the cornea, within the middle corneal layer (the stroma).
- May be surrounded by a reddish rim due to blood vessel ingrowth.
- Can lead to corneal ulceration (superficial or deep) as the eye attempts to shed the dead tissue.



Is the condition painful?

Initially, a sequestrum may be painless, but it can become intensely painful, especially if ulceration develops.

What causes the condition?

While the exact cause isn't always clear, corneal sequestrum in cats is often linked to:

- Chronic Irritation: Entropion or eyelashes rubbing the eye.
- Viral Infection: Feline Herpesvirus (FHV-1).
- Dry Eye: Poor tear quality or quantity.
- Breed Predisposition: Persians, Burmese, British Shorthairs, among others.

What are the treatment options?

- Early Cases: Conservative management with topical ocular lubrication may be attempted for diffuse "tea-staining" lesions.
- Discrete Lesions/Ulceration: Surgical excision under general anaesthetic is advised. This may be followed by a protective contact lens or corneal graft repair for deeper lesions.
- Correction of Predisposing Factors: Addressing underlying anatomical abnormalities like eyelid or tear film defects.

What to expect post-operatively

- Expect some eye discomfort for a few days, managed with topical and oral medications (pain relief, antibiotics, lubricants).
- An Elizabethan collar is required for at least one week to prevent self-trauma to the eye.
- Gentle cleaning of eye discharge with wet cotton wool.
- Regular follow-up appointments are necessary to monitor healing.
- Long-term topical treatment (potentially several months) may be needed to minimise corneal scarring and restore corneal clarity.

Will treatment be successful?

- Surgical removal is highly successful. Most cats regain excellent vision and corneal clarity with minimal scarring.
- Identifying and addressing underlying risk factors is crucial. A small number of cases may develop new lesions in the same or other eye in the future; we will advise on prevention strategies.

