

# BULLOUS KERATOPATHY

## WHAT IS BULLOUS KERATOPATHY?

The inner layer of the cornea acts like a pump to help the cornea dehydrate when the cells decrease in number, water builds up in the cornea, which eventually can cause blisters. Rupture of these blisters can result in ulceration and pain.

## WHAT ARE THE TREATMENT OPTIONS?

We aim to manage the blisters with topical sodium chloride. If this is not sufficient, we can consider surgical options which will be discussed with your ophthalmologist. These surgical options aim to reduce the risk of blister formation, and do not tend to improve corneal clarity. Vision may be initially reduced for the first few weeks after surgery as the cornea remodels.

### KERATOLEPTYSIS (LETTER BOX)

A superficial keratectomy is performed on the top and bottom third of the cornea leaving a clear central band. Following this, a thin conjunctival flap is placed into each defect which acts as a new drainage pathway for the corneal fluid.

## CLINICAL SIGNS

- ☒ Eye presents as subtle cloudy/blue colour
- ☒ Cloudiness can progress
- ☒ Ulcers can cause squinting, discharge and pain.

## MEDICAL MANAGEMENT

Hypertonic saline drops or ointment are used to control the build up of fluid in the cornea. The saline draws fluid out of the cornea. If this fails, or the intensity of medication is too high, surgery should be considered.

## SUPERFICIAL KERATECTOMY

One of the main surgical techniques, this removes the abnormal section of the cornea which is then allowed to heal.

## THERMOKERATOPLASTY

Burns multiple tiny holes into the surface of the cornea, this causes marked scarring and is considered end stage surgery.

*Optivet Referrals*

# **BULLOUS KERATOPATHY**

## **CORNEAL ENDOTHELIAL TRANSPLANTATION**

This procedure is in its very early stages in veterinary medicine and is not routinely used.

## **ANY QUESTIONS?**

Do not hesitate to contact us.

Call us on: 012433888091

Email us on: [advice@optivet.com](mailto:advice@optivet.com)

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At Optivet, we understand that your pet is part of your family, and when under our care you are part of ours. Our specialist team are on hand to help with any queries or concerns you may have. Our emotional support advisor Sam is always on hand if you feel overwhelmed at any time, or would just like a listening ear.



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