

CORNEAL SEQUESTRUM

WHAT IS A CORNEAL SEQUESTRUM?

A corneal sequestrum presents as a brown/black discoloured area on the surface of a cat's cornea. They occur because a small area of the cornea has died off, and is being rejected by the healthy surrounding tissue. In most cases, this becomes painful as the cornea attempts to 'shed' the sequestrum. This is often coupled with corneal ulceration, clouding of the cornea and visual impairment. If the sequestrum erodes deeply, or the ulcerated area becomes infected, there is a risk of perforation and potential loss of the eye.

WHY DO THEY DEVELOP?

The reason for their development is currently unknown, however there are identified risk factors. These include: breed disposition in short-nosed breeds, chronic corneal ulcers, entropion and feline herpesvirus. Patients who have suffered corneal sequestrums are at a higher risk of developing them in the future.

HOW ARE THEY TREATED?

- ☑ **Medical Management:** Only suitable in non-painful patients. This supports the cornea whilst it sheds the sequestrum naturally. However, this treatment is unpredictable and not suitable for every patient.
- ☑ **Surgical Treatment:** Involves removal of the sequestrum under a general anaesthetic. If the sequestrum is superficial, a contact lens is placed to protect the healing cornea. If the sequestrum is deep, a graft will be surgically placed.

WHICH OPTION IS BEST?

Each patient is assessed individually to enable your vet to discuss viable treatment options. For surgical candidates, the depth of the sequestrum cannot be fully assessed until the surgery is underway, so the vet will decide on the best course of action once assessed under the microscope. If there is an underlying eyelid abnormality, this is usually corrected at the same time.

WHAT HAPPENS POST-SURGERY?

A buster collar must be worn until advised by your vet, and your cat must stay indoors. Antibiotic eye drops and pain killers will be prescribed. There is a small risk of graft infection and failure to heal, or recurrence of the sequestrum. In these cases, a second operation is needed.

Optivet Referrals

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ANY QUESTIONS?

Do not hesitate to contact us.

Call us on: 012433888091

Email us on: advice@optivet.com

Visit our website: www.optivet.com

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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.

