

Glaucoma is increased eye pressure caused by inability of the eye to drain fluid. This is caused by either a primary structural problem (present from birth) or a secondary problem caused by an underlying disease

## Clinical Signs

- Excessive blinking
- Eye Redness
- Excessive tearing
- Cloudy eye surface
- Blindness or vision changes
- “Bulging” look to eye
- Irritability
- Unwillingness to be touched
- Not eating



## Stolley Park Veterinary Hospital

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# Glaucoma



Increased eye  
pressure



Glaucoma is an  
emergency

## Diagnosis

Glaucoma is diagnosed by tonometry, which measures eye pressure. Pressure above 25mmHg with concurrent clinical signs is considered suspicious of glaucoma.

Once diagnosis is made, eye pressure must be relieved quickly to attempt to spare vision (see "Treatment" below).

If cause of glaucoma is unknown and an underlying cause is suspected, diagnostic testing may be performed to identify the underlying conditions. These may include: blood tests, x-rays, ultrasound of affected eye, gonioscopy (examination of the drainage angle).

## Treatment

If eye pressures are very high, emergency treatment may be necessary.

### Emergency Treatment:

- Aqueocentesis (remove fluid)
- Intravenous Mannitol (reduces pressure via the blood stream)
- Start topical eye drops
- Recheck pressures until a safer level is reached
- This may require sedation and/or hospitalization
- If pressures have been high for too long, vision may not be spared.

### Maintenance therapy

Treatment of glaucoma is life-long. One or more of the following eye drops will be used daily.

Timolol: 1 drop each eye two to three times daily, mostly for prevention of glaucoma in the unaffected eye.

Dorzolamide: 1 drop each eye every 12 hours.

Cosopt: (a combination of the above, cost less & work better together)

Xalatan (latanoprost): 1 drop in the evening, twice daily as disease progresses

**Drops should be separated by 5 minutes**

## Referral

In many cases of glaucoma, we recommend referral to Veterinary Eye Specialists in Omaha or Kansas State University. Referral institutions may be better able to provide a more thorough eye examination with more specialized equipment. In severe cases, referral may be the best option for sparing your pet's vision.

## Rechecks

Whether you have gone to a referral institution or not, frequent rechecks are necessary to monitor the progress of your pet's eye pressure. Recurrence is very common, and the other eye will likely be affected within the year, so eye pressures must be closely monitored.

**If vision is gone and eye is painful, sometimes removal of the eye is the best option**