

Early Insight, Better Outcomes

Feline Eye Care Insights

Tips, tricks, and practical insights to protect vision, improve comfort, and support lifelong eye health.



Feline Herpes Virus (FHV-1)

The most common cause of ocular disease in cats. Despite FHV-1 being viral, secondary bacterial infections can lead to progressive ulceration of the cornea. Early intervention is necessary.

Symptoms

Conjunctivitis

→ May be severe, especially in kittens, and lead to adhesions and symblepharon.

→ Inflammation causes disruption of the goblet cells which are responsible for secreting mucous that's needed for a healthy tear film and ocular surface.

Corneal ulceration (not just the pathognomonic dendritic ulcers)

Coughing and/or sneezing

Lethargy

Nasal and ocular discharge

Blepharospasm

Corneal sequestrum

→ Areas of dark, necrotic cornea that are linked to chronic ulceration and FHV-1.

Cautions

Polymyxin can cause potential life-threatening allergic reactions – use with caution.

Topical steroids may make FHV-1 worse.

Uveitis

Don't forget to think about infectious causes such as: FeLV, FIV, FIP, toxoplasma, *Bartonella*, and fungal.

→ ~40-70% of cats have no definitive diagnosis identified and idiopathic or immune-mediated are suspected.

Did you know?

Brachycephalic cats are prone to entropion.

Ocular pain can cause spastic entropion in cats.

Eosinophilic keratitis

Cytology is key. If you see even one eosinophil, this is your diagnosis.

May benefit from antivirals since FHV-1 may play a role, but steroids are a common treatment.

Supportive Care

Support tear film health with HA-containing lubricants.

Hyaluronic acid eye drops, such as **Ocunovis™ ProCare**, helps to break the cycle to allow the goblet cells to regenerate.



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