



McMASTER & HEAP VETERINARY PRACTICE

REFERREAL EYE CASES



Recently

Dr Steve Heap examined 20 week old Beagle puppy called "Penny", who presented as a referral with a painful, partially closed right eye. Penny had unfortunately been scratched in the eye by a slightly grumpy older resident cat.

Steve diagnosed a cataract in this eye, with phacouveitis and serous glaucoma all in a little puppy. Glaucoma is when there is increased intraocular pressure causing pain and discomfort. Steve had discussed with the owners that this right eye had a hopeless prognosis for vision. Topical eye medications were instigated to control the pain and inflammation and rising pressure in the eye. Steve also discussed that if these medications didn't hold this condition, Penny's eye would need to be enucleated. Pretty quickly it was noticed that the right eye had deteriorated beyond medical therapy. Enucleation (removal) of the eye and placement of an intrascleral prosthesis (glass bead eye) was surgically undertaken to relieve Penny from a life of medication and pain.

Not all pets with enucleated eyes need to have prosthetics placed. Steve will often enucleate an eye and then stitch the lids together. This ends up cosmetically looking fine. Due to Penny's very young age, her owners felt a prosthetic eye would look more pleasing on their cute wee pup.

This cute owl was bought into Steve recently due to opacities noted on its corneas affecting its' ability to see clearly. Steve isn't sure of the cause but is trialling antibiotic drops as he suspects an infective cause.

The surgery was a success and 4 weeks on, Penny is a happy, active, normal wee puppy with a prosthetic right eye and normal vision out of the left eye.

Another interesting ophthalmology case for Dr Steve Heap came from the SPCA. A 5 month old stray sneezing kitten was examined by Steve and found to have no lateral upper eyelids in both the left and right eyes, a condition called Bilateral Upper Lateral Eyelid Agenesis. As a result the eyes were sore, dry and constantly irritated by hair rubbing on the cornea (the sensitive clear window of the eye).

Steve trialled lubricants and antibiotic ointments in the eyes in the hope the eyes would be comfortable long term, but this wasn't the case. The kitten was taken to surgery and Steve carefully and intricately created upper eyelids by harvesting strips of skin taken from below the lower lids. All in all a successful outcome for this wee kitten who will be rehomed and avoid a lifetime of medication.



OPEN 7 DAYS

Cnr Hoon Hay & Coppell Place
Phone 338 2534, Fax 339 8624

E. mcmasterandheap@yahoo.co.nz
www.mcmasterheap.co.nz



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