



## Happy Pet Eyes

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# Cataracts in Pets

## A Happy Pet Eyes Guide for Pet Owners

At Happy Pet Eyes, we understand how concerning it can be to learn your pet has cataracts. Our goal is to help you clearly understand the diagnosis, how we evaluate vision, and what treatment options are available to protect your pet's comfort and quality of life.

### What Is a Cataract?

A cataract is a clouding of the eye's natural lens, which normally allows light to pass clearly for vision. As the lens becomes cloudy, sight becomes blurry, dim, or completely blocked—similar to looking through a foggy window. Cataracts are not painful, but they can affect confidence, navigation, and daily activities.

### Why Do Cataracts Develop?

Common causes include:

- Genetics
- Diabetes mellitus (very common in dogs)
- Aging changes
- Prior eye inflammation or trauma

Cataracts do not resolve on their own, and medications cannot reverse them.

### How Cataracts Are Evaluated

Not all cataracts require surgery. A comprehensive cataract evaluation helps determine if vision can be restored safely. Testing may include:

- Complete ophthalmic examination
- Eye pressure measurement

- Inflammation assessment
- Retinal function testing
- Ocular ultrasound when visibility is limited

Our goal is to confirm that the eye is healthy and capable of regaining vision.

### Anesthesia & Health Screening

Because cataract surgery requires general anesthesia, your pet's overall health is carefully assessed beforehand through physical exam, bloodwork, and coordination with your primary veterinarian. Safety is always the first priority.

### Cataracts & Diabetes

Diabetic pets can be excellent surgical candidates—but only when blood sugar is well controlled. Good diabetic regulation improves healing and reduces complications.

### When Is Surgery Recommended?

Surgery is considered when:

- Vision loss affects quality of life
- The eye is comfortable and healthy
- Inflammation is controlled
- The retina is functional
- Medical conditions are stable

Cataract surgery is the only way to restore vision once cataracts mature.

## **Cataract Surgery**

Surgery is performed using advanced phacoemulsification technology to remove the cloudy lens, typically followed by placement of an artificial intraocular lens implant to improve visual clarity. Many pets regain functional vision and return to normal activities within weeks.

## **After Surgery**

Recovery includes:

- Several weeks of eye drops
- Use of an E-collar
- Scheduled recheck visits

Our team supports you closely throughout healing.

## **Understanding Risks**

As with any surgery, risks may include inflammation, infection, glaucoma, or retinal complications. Careful screening, advanced equipment, and specialized expertise help minimize these risks