



Veterinary Ophthalmology Services

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ELIZABETHAN COLLAR HANDOUT

Your pet has been custom-fitted with a plastic Elizabethan collar, or "E-collar". This will aid in healing and help decrease chances of further trauma to the eye caused by pawing or rubbing on objects such as soft furniture, throw rugs, and pillows. We are aware of the inconvenience and frustration some pets and owners experience during this period, but it is important to keep in mind that the animals are not aware that they are inflicting further damage to the eye if it is unprotected! Most patients take 1-3 days to adjust, so refrain from taking the E-collar off or trimming it. The length of the E-collar is very important, since the edge needs to be a certain distance from the eye. The following are some helpful hints and tips:

Pet will not eat or drink

- elevate the dish 2-4 inches (phone book, etc.), try heavy crock dishes, use bottom of a large coffee mug for cats or flat-faced dogs
- add junior baby food (chicken, beef) or low-sodium chicken broth to warm food
- hand feed and water

Pet won't eliminate (urine or bowel)

- be patient for 12 - 24 hours
- keep kitty litter clean at all times and use a large box with no top
- take dogs out for frequent walks
- call our office if no elimination in 24 hours, or if there is straining

Pet's ears smell

- to decrease ear infections, keep collar dry
- trim the pet's facial hair and hair around ears if hair is long

Pet won't move

- encourage with treats and be patient
- keep your routine as best as you can
- speaking to your pet with too much sympathy may often have the adverse effect

Pet's neck is raw

- keep neck dry
- try a sleeve from an old sweatshirt or a few mini-pads taped around the inside edges of the collar
- dry with a hair dryer several times a day

Other pets in household

- if they play with patient and/or lick the patient's eyes, then they must be separated

Bathing

- only from the neck down
- face may be cleaned with warm moist washcloth (no soap)
- make sure neck is dry after bathing
- professional grooming is NOT advised until approved by us

Your pet's peripheral vision and his/her hearing might be reduced by the E-collar

- do not let your pet outside unattended
- expect your pet to bump into walls and furniture