

Feline Iris Melanosis & Melanoma: Client Information Sheet



WHAT IS FELINE IRIS MELANOSIS AND MELANOMA?

IRIS MELANOSIS IS A CONDITION IN WHICH THE IRIS (THE COLORED PART OF THE EYE) DEVELOPS AREAS OF INCREASED PIGMENTATION. THESE DARK SPOTS OR PATCHES ARE TYPICALLY BENIGN BUT CAN PROGRESS OVER TIME.

WHAT IS IRIS MELANOMA?

IN SOME CASES, IRIS MELANOSIS CAN TRANSFORM INTO A MALIGNANT (CANCEROUS) FORM KNOWN AS IRIS MELANOMA. THIS AGGRESSIVE CONDITION CAN INVADE SURROUNDING TISSUES AND POTENTIALLY SPREAD (METASTASIZE) TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY.

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:

- DARK SPOTS OR PATCHES ON THE IRIS THAT INCREASE IN SIZE OR NUMBER
- CHANGES IN IRIS TEXTURE OR THICKNESS
- DISTORTED PUPIL SHAPE OR SIZE
- INCREASED INTRAOCULAR PRESSURE (GLAUCOMA)
- REDNESS, CLOUDINESS, OR DISCOMFORT IN THE EYE



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR VETERINARY OPHTHALMOLOGIST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



DIAGNOSIS:

YOUR VETERINARY OPHTHALMOLOGIST WILL PERFORM AN EYE EXAMINATION USING SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT. IN SOME CASES, IMAGING TESTS (SUCH AS ULTRASOUND) OR IRIS BIOPSY MAY BE RECOMMENDED.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- MONITORING: SMALL, STABLE MELANOSIS SPOTS MAY SIMPLY REQUIRE REGULAR CHECK-UPS.
- LASER THERAPY: IN EARLY CASES, LASER TREATMENT MAY SLOW OR STOP PROGRESSION. THIS IS MOST USEFUL IN CASES WHERE THE PIGMENTATION IS CONFINED TO ONE AREA.
- SURGICAL REMOVAL (IRIDECTOMY): IF THERE IS CONCERN FOR MALIGNANCY, A PORTION OF THE IRIS MAY BE REMOVED.
- ENUCLEATION (EYE REMOVAL): IF MELANOMA IS CONFIRMED AND INVASIVE, REMOVING THE AFFECTED EYE MAY BE NECESSARY TO PREVENT METASTASIS.

PROGNOSIS

- BENIGN IRIS MELANOSIS: TYPICALLY DOES NOT AFFECT VISION OR HEALTH IF MONITORED PROPERLY.
- IRIS MELANOMA: PROGNOSIS DEPENDS ON HOW ADVANCED THE DISEASE IS AT DIAGNOSIS. EARLY INTERVENTION IMPROVES OUTCOMES.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- SCHEDULE REGULAR VETERINARY CHECK-UPS AND OPHTHALMIC EXAMS.
- MONITOR CHANGES IN EYE PIGMENTATION AND REPORT THEM PROMPTLY.

