

## NON-SURGICAL MAINTENANCE

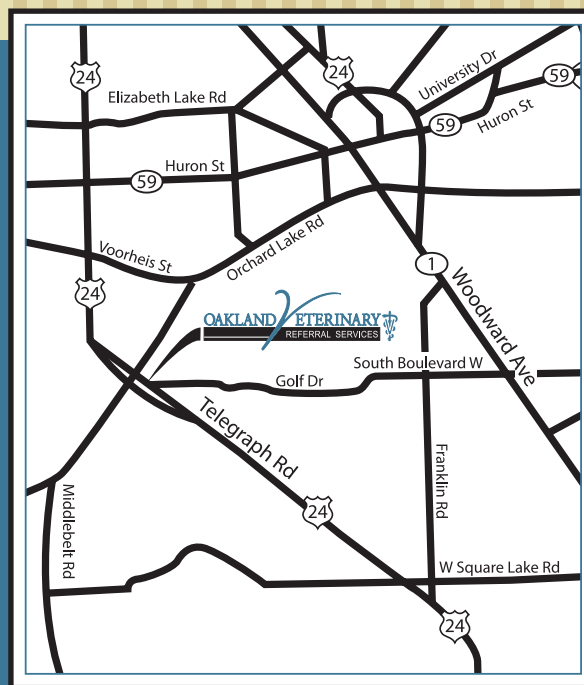
**Some dogs are not good surgical candidates for cataract surgery.**

In other cases, cataract surgery is not a viable option due to cost or known inability to perform the necessary follow up care. That does not mean your dog cannot enjoy a good quality of life.

We can help you manage your blind dog with suggestions, support and recommend reading material.

If your dog has cataracts, we encourage you to have a consultation with us even if you do not plan on pursuing surgery.

Sometimes inflammation is associated with cataracts, which should be treated to maintain ocular health and comfort.



## Our Location

1400 South Telegraph Road | Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

## Our Contact Info

[www.ovrs.com](http://www.ovrs.com) | [info@ovrs.com](mailto:info@ovrs.com)

248-334-6877

## An OVRS *Commitment*

The health of our patients is our top priority.  
We will always work in close partnership with  
the referring veterinarian  
to promote the best course of care.

## Have You Been Referred?

### Things to Bring to Your Consultation

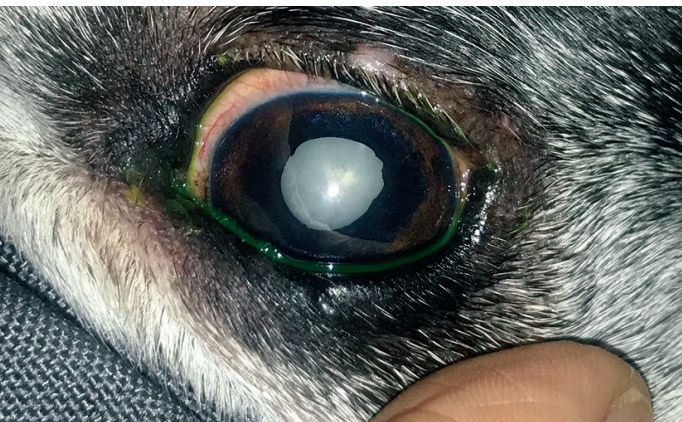
Recent Radiographs and Blood Work  
Current Medications

## CARING FOR *Cataracts*



# (cat•a•ract):

An opacity or a clouding of the lens of the eye.



## TYPES OF CATARACTS

Cataracts can be **diffuse**, causing a scattering or a blocking of the light through the lens, resulting in blurred vision or in blindness. Diffuse cataracts can have a white, almost crystalline appearance, or appear as a generalized cloudiness.

Cataracts can also be smaller, **discreet** opacities in the lens that cause little if any vision problem. Often the smaller, discreet opacities are not noticeable to the casual observer.

## CAUSES OF CATARACTS

Most commonly, cataracts in dogs are inherited. Another cause for many dogs is diabetes, and even dogs with regulated diabetes can develop cataracts. Other causes include cataracts secondary to intraocular inflammation, penetrating injury to the eye, exposure to certain toxins, and some nutritional deficiencies.

## TREATMENT

### Surgery is the only treatment to remove cataracts.

During the surgery, which is performed with the aid of an operating microscope, a small incision is made in the cornea and in the capsular bag that holds the lens. The cataract is removed using a process called **phacoemulsification**. During this process, the lens is simultaneously broken up using ultrasound and vacuumed from the eye. We utilize the same process and type of phacoemulsification machine that is used in human medicine. After the cataract is removed, a replacement intraocular lens is placed in the empty capsular bag to help replace the focusing power of the natural lens. The corneal incision is closed with tiny sutures using the operating microscope.

## COST

This is an expensive procedure and the cost reflects both the sophisticated equipment and training required. Please call our office to inquire about cost. One of our Ophthalmology Technicians will be happy to give you an estimate and answer other questions you may have.

## PRE-SURGICAL EVALUATION

During your pet's initial visit, we will carefully perform a comprehensive eye exam which will provide information about the level of visual impairment and the likelihood of cataract progression. Our staff will also spend time with you answering your questions and explaining the procedure and what it involves both in the hospital and at home for after care. Most dogs will also need an **electroretinogram** (ERG) and an ultrasound of the eye before surgery to confirm that the retina is functional and not detached.

## SUCCESS RATE IN DOGS

Success rates for cataract surgery in dogs are very good, with published reports indicating rates of 85% to 90% for good vision after surgery.

One function of the pre-surgical evaluation is to identify factors that may affect surgical outcome and discuss them with you before you make a decision regarding surgery. Possible complications that detract from the success of the procedure include inflammation, scar formation, capsular opacity formation, glaucoma and retinal detachment.

Certain dog breeds are more predisposed to some complications than others. Our team is committed to maximizing success rates by careful selection of surgical candidates. We pride ourselves in client communication and are willing to spend the time required to educate pet owners about all aspects of cataract surgery before the procedure.

## POST-OPERATIVE CARE

A large part of the success of surgery depends on controlling surgical inflammation after the procedure. During the first 24 hours, your pet will be hospitalized and carefully monitored with frequent medication.

**At home, you will be expected to give eye drops from 4 to 6 times daily for 1 week after surgery.**

Medications will decrease over the next few months, however some dogs will require lifelong eye drops. The sutures in the cornea are delicate, so a cone collar is required on your dog at all times for the first 2 weeks with limited activity. In uncomplicated cases, follow up appointments are needed in 1 week, 1 month, then 3 and 6 months postoperatively. Regular 6 month checks are recommended thereafter.