

## Aware Owners Can Slow Glaucoma

**Routine eye examinations can slow the onset of glaucoma.**

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Secondary glaucoma occurs when another disease causes inflammation or blocks the fluid outflow tracts. Diseases of the lens such as luxation (displacement), swelling and cataracts commonly cause secondary glaucoma. Uveitis (inflammation of the iris and surrounding structures), scarring inside the eye, trauma, bleeding inside the eye and tumors can also cause it. The symptoms may develop suddenly or more slowly, though sudden onset is more common. One or both eyes may be affected, depending on the underlying disease.

Typical signs of acute glaucoma are generally obvious to most owners, who may note pain, sensitivity to light, squinting, tearing or abnormal redness of the white of the eye or conjunctiva (pink tissue surrounding the eye). The dog may rub at the eye with its paws or rub the eye and face on the ground. The cornea may become hazy, cloudy or blue. If the pupil is visible, it is usually dilated and may not respond normally to light. The affected eye(s) may have reduced or no vision. Most dogs will display lethargy and decreased appetite at this stage.

In most cases, early treatment leads to a successful or an improved outcome. Careful attention should always be paid to the condition of your dog's eyes. Any changes should be assessed by your veterinarian. Early signs of glaucoma can appear very similar to less serious conditions such as allergies and superficial infections of the eye. Depending on the degree of pressure increase inside the eye, permanent changes and blindness may occur within hours or days. Obviously a wrong assumption can have grave consequences.