

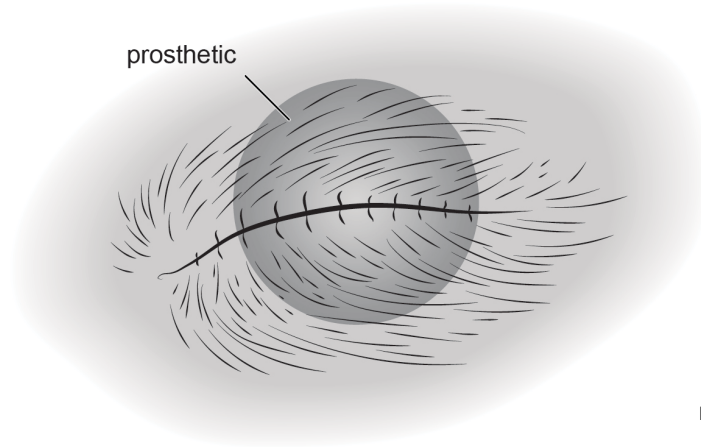
Enucleation

Eye removal, or enucleation, is a procedure that may be necessary for a variety of reasons. Tumors within the eye, glaucoma (high pressure inside the eye) and pain associated with elevated eye pressure, perforating corneal ulcers that cannot be repaired or an untreatable infection where vision cannot be restored are all reasons that an enucleation may be necessary. In some cases, removal of both eyes is necessary to keep your pet pain free.

An enucleation is a short procedure done under general anesthesia. A local numbing block is placed at the incision which will last up to three days. This numbing block helps keep your pet pain free for three days and makes the recovery much easier. At the time of surgery an orbital implant can be placed under the skin to prevent the area from appearing indented. This is an optional procedure and is only for a cosmetic effect.

After an enucleation your pet will go home the same day with oral antibiotics, oral anti-inflammatory medications and additional pain medications if necessary. An e-collar or Elizabethan collar must be worn until the sutures are removed.

Enucleation



Drawing courtesy Abigail Stowers



The post-operative appearance of a dog after suture removal. There is an orbital implant under the skin to prevent an indentation.



The post-operative appearance of a dog after eye removal surgery.



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The post-operative appearance of a cat after eye removal surgery



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The post-operative appearance of a dog after bilateral eye removal



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The post-operative appearance of a tiger after eye removal surgery



The post-operative appearance of a dog after eye removal surgery. In this case there was no implant placed under the skin hence the sunken appearance



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Dr. Tolar removing sutures on a Bongo antelope at the Louisville Zoo after an eye removal procedure.