

## **Corneal Surgery**

The cornea may be affected by a number of conditions where surgery is indicated. The main disease-processes are described in the information sheet on corneal transparency.

### **Corneal transplantation:**

The surgery involves using fresh tissue (cornea) from a donor dog. Depending on the type of corneal disease, the surgery will involve transplanting cornea full-thickness (penetrating keratoplasty) or half-thickness (lamellar keratoplasty). Permanent sutures (non-resorbing) nylon sutures are typically used during this surgery. The sutures will fall out after a few weeks or may need to be removed under local anesthesia or sedation after 1-2 months. Long term treatment with medications is necessary to control inflammation after surgery.

Indications for surgery: deep corneal ulceration, corneal degeneration, corneal dystrophy

### **Sliding corneal transplantation/graft:**

There is typically damage to the cornea (ulceration), which may be full thickness. Sliding a piece of healthy cornea into the defect and suturing it in place with dissolving (resorbing) or permanent (non-resorbing) sutures is necessary. Long term treatment with medications to control tear production may be necessary after surgery.

Indications for surgery: deep corneal ulceration, corneal sequestration.

### **Conjunctival graft:**

A thin piece of conjunctiva (the pink lining of the eye) is used to cover a defect in the cornea. There will be a permanent scar on the cornea after this type of surgery, which is usually used to save an eye that may have poor or no vision.

Indications for surgery: corneal ulceration, non-healing corneal ulcers associated with herpes virus in cats.

### **Keratectomy:**

This involves taking a thin slice of the cornea (similar to the first step in LASIK surgery) to remove a piece of diseased tissue. Another word for this surgery is "lamellar keratectomy".

Indications for surgery: non-healing superficial ulcer (erosion, Boxer ulcer), corneal Sequestrum, eosinophilic keratitis, corneal degeneration, corneal dystrophy.

*Any surgically removed piece of corneal tissue is submitted for pathological testing routinely.*

Should you have any further questions about corneal surgery or corneal diseases, call our office and ask to speak to Drs Clinton or Evans.