

# ANIMAL MATTERS: Tips & Treatments



Michigan Veterinary  
Specialists<sup>sm</sup>

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## OPHTHALMOLOGY

### Cataract causes, complications and treatment

#### What causes a cataract?

A cataract is any opacity of the lens. Nuclear sclerosis is differentiated from cataracts because it is a normal old age change that does not generally lead to vision loss. Cataracts can be caused by genetics, diabetes, inflammation or trauma to the eye.

#### What complications result from cataracts?

Decreased vision or even blindness are the most common complications. Lens-induced uveitis often occurs when lens proteins leak from the lens capsule. Additionally, uveitis can lead to glaucoma, retinal degeneration or detachment, and other blinding conditions. For this reason, mature cataracts require anti-inflammatory treatment whether or not surgery is pursued.

#### What are the treatments for cataracts?

Careful patient screening including ophthalmic examination and electroretinography are necessary to determine if cataract removal may be performed. Topical ophthalmic medications to control uveitis are initiated. In spite of various claims of medical treatment reversing or slowing progression, cataract surgery is the only option for restoring vision. Phacoemulsification (ultrasonic removal of the lens material) with lens implantation is the most common method to restore pet's vision. Uncomplicated cataract surgery has a success rate of 80-90% for restoring vision. **Early evaluation to control uveitis and prevent other complications dramatically increases cataract surgery success rates and the quality of the patient's life.** (Cataract surgery is now performed on an out-patient basis in both our Southfield and Grand Rapids locations.)

#### MVS Ophthalmology

##### Clinicians:

Dan Lorimer, DVM, DACVO  
Ray Morreale, DVM, MS, DACVO  
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MVS ophthalmologists serve as an extension of your practice. Our diplomates have years of additional training beyond a DVM degree and have been board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists to assure competency in advanced veterinary ophthalmology. We offer ophthalmic service at all three MVS hospitals as well as additional off-site locations (see list below).

#### Questions?

Our ophthalmology staff is available for questions and consultations on ophthalmic conditions.

#### LOCATIONS

29080 Inkster Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48034  
Ph. (248) 354-6660

3412 East Walton Blvd.  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
Ph. (248) 371-3713

1425 Michigan St. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 284-5300

**Additional locations for consultation include: Toledo, Ann Arbor and Grayling.**