



By your veterinary ophthalmologist

Dr. Franck Ollivier
DMV, Ph.D, Dipl ACVO et ECVO
Veterinary ophthalmology specialist (FR)

Enucleation

In some cases, the eye is not savable (trauma, laceration, perforation, cancer) or the eye remains painful despite the medical or surgical treatment (glaucoma, uveitis).

In these cases, the removal of the eyeball and the closure of the eyelids represent the best alternative for the animal. This surgical procedure is called enucleation. It is performed under general anesthesia. The animal will be under anti-inflammatory, antibiotic and pain medication for few days and the skin sutures will be removed about 12-14 days later.

Choosing to go for an enucleation for your animal can be a very difficult decision to make.

However, please keep in mind that is probably the best choice for the following reasons:

- Your pet does not see from this painful eye anyway
- The non-visual eye is a real source of pain
- The non-visual eye can be a potential risk of dissemination of the infection (perforation of the globe)
- The non-visual eye can be a potential risk of dissemination of the cancer (intra-ocular cancer)
- Your animal will function very well with only one eye (better than us humans!!)
- The eye will look like if he was blinking all the time, especially if he has long hair...it won't be noticeable that much

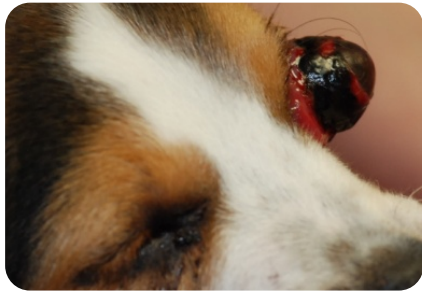
It is important to remember that within a few weeks, your pet will be comfortable and will no longer have any eye pain. He will play again like when he was a puppy\kitten.



Dog with a traumatic perforated left eye



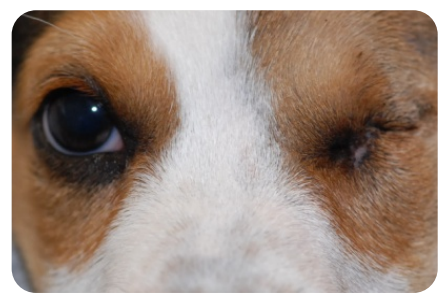
The same dog 8 weeks later



Dog with a traumatic luxated globe



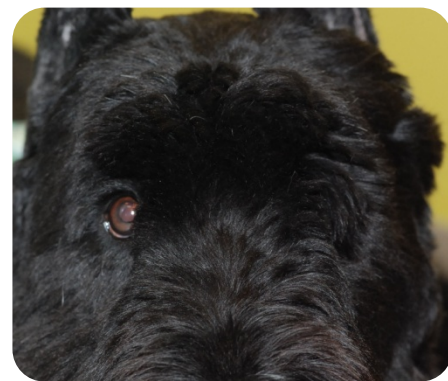
24 hours after enucleation



12 days after enucleation



Dog with a severe uveitis causing pain



The same dog 4 months later



Dog after a trauma



Same dog 12 days later



Dog with a severe uveitis



24 hours after surgery



12 days after surgery causing pain



A cat with a cancer in his left eye



3 weeks later



Your pet can still have a wonderful life with only one eye !!!