Clinical information sheet

By your veterinary ophthalmologist

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Corneal lipid dystrophy

Corneal dystrophy is typically an inherited, bilaterally symmetrical disease of the cornea. It usually appears as a gray-white or silver opacity in the central corneal region. These opacities represent deposits of lipid and cholesterol in the cornea.

It is not associated with ocular discomfort except in a small number of dog breeds such as Shetland Sheepdogs and Airedales. Occasionally, corneal dystrophy will develop in dogs with high levels of circulating serum cholesterol or lipid (fat). Should this be suspected, specific blood tests will be recommended to evaluate serum cholesterol and lipid levels (usually after the pet is fasted).

The condition is rarely associated with significant visual impairment and owners are advised to monitor for changes in appearance and for signs of discomfort





Corneal lipid dystrophy in two dogs

