

Corneal Sequestrum in Cats

Corneal Sequestrum is a disease of the cornea in cats. A corneal sequestrum is typically orange/brown/black and centrally located in the cornea. The sequestrum, or dead tissue, is seen as a foreign body and sloughed/rejected with vascularization of the cornea. Some affected cats are purebred (most often Persian cats), although some affected cats are domestic short hair cats.

Corneal Sequestrum may be related to chronic irritation of the cornea, and predisposing factors include entropion (rolling inwards of the eyelids), exposure of the cornea, previous inflammation, infection and/or tear disorders.

No medical treatment is successful, although there have been reports of using topical lubrication and interferon-alfa eye drops to slow down the process or encourage rejection/sloughing of the dead tissue.

Various recent studies on corneal tissue (biopsy) removed from cats affected by Corneal Sequestrum indicate that this disease may be a corneal dystrophy, as some specimens were Feline Herpes Virus negative (laboratory tests). A dystrophy is defined as a bilateral disease (affecting both corneas/eyes), which is inherited.

Various surgical options are available for the treatment of Corneal Sequestrum and the standard options include: keratectomy (slice of the cornea), corneo-conjunctival transposition (sliding corneal graft), corneal transplant.