



UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
UW Veterinary Medical Center

What to expect at my pet's Ophthalmology Appointment

Who Will I See During My Initial Appointment?

Overview: UW Veterinary Care is a teaching institution, and your care team includes a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist (doctor), veterinary nurses (clinical technicians), veterinarians in advanced clinical training programs (residents and interns - doctors), fourth-year veterinary students, and at times, visiting veterinary students or veterinarians.

Examination: The student will meet you in the waiting room to review your pet's medical history. Then the student will take your pet to an exam room and perform an ophthalmic exam under the supervision of a clinician (doctor) on the Ophthalmology Service. As a matter of policy, you will be asked to return to the lobby during the examination. The student will then review your pet's case with an ophthalmology clinician, who will also review your pet's medical history and perform a second eye and physical exam, if indicated. It is often necessary to administer eye drops to dilate your pet's pupils and allow better visualization of the inner structures of the eye. It takes 15 minutes for these drops to work and their effect lasts 3-4 hours. The clinician meets with you to explain their initial assessment and make recommendations for an initial diagnostic and treatment plan. Together with the care team, you will decide on the best plan for your pet. New patients may need to stay with us for most of the day to allow time to complete necessary diagnostic tests.

Diagnostic Tests: For patients with eye disease, tests included in the ophthalmic exam often include tear tests, fluorescein staining (corneal ulcer check) and intraocular pressure measurement (glaucoma check). Further testing depends on each case; additional diagnostic tests that may be needed include an electroretinogram (retinal function test), ophthalmic ultrasound, systemic blood pressure measurement, radiography (x-rays), and blood and urine testing. In some cases, we may need to give your pet anti-anxiety or sedative medications to minimize their stress during the testing; we will discuss this with you at the time of the appointment.

Discharge: At discharge, the clinician and student will discuss and explain all of the diagnostic test results. **They will also make recommendations for treatment, if needed. The discussion at discharge may take longer than you might anticipate. Please plan on spending at least 15 minutes, possibly up to an hour, for our team to discuss results, treatment, prognosis and make a plan for ongoing care.** Once finalized, we will send a detailed written report of diagnostic findings and treatment plans to you and your primary care veterinarian. After your appointment or hospital discharge, we will work with you and your referring primary care veterinarian to provide continued care. Please be sure that you have all prescribed medications or prescriptions provided for your pet before you leave.

Who are part of the UW Veterinary Care Team?

- **Faculty Clinicians:** Our faculty are licensed veterinarians/ACVO board-certified ophthalmologists, who are nationally and internationally recognized experts in ophthalmology.
- **Technicians:** Our veterinary technicians are licensed and experienced veterinary nurses with specialized ophthalmic training.
- **Client Services:** Our client services representatives manage patient check-in and discharge, schedule appointments and accept financial payments.
- **Ophthalmology Residents:** Our residents are all licensed veterinarians who have completed at least one year of advanced clinical training. They provide clinical service and teach students as part of an



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accredited program leading to board certification by the American Board of Veterinary Ophthalmology.

- **Small Animal Interns:** Interns are licensed veterinarians in an accredited advanced clinical training program. They also provide clinical service and teaching.
- **Fourth-Year Medical Students:** Our fourth-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students rotate through hospital services to gain closely supervised clinical experience.

What Costs and Fees Should I Expect?

The initial examination fee is \$285-520, depending on exam type, which includes examination by and consultation with an ophthalmology clinician. The range for the typical outpatient ophthalmic evaluation ranges from \$300 - \$1500, but varies widely depending on the nature of the problem.

Please do not hesitate to discuss the cost of your pet's workup if you have concerns or are unclear about the cost of the proposed diagnostic or treatment course. Please remember that animal patients are much like people patients, they all recover in their own time. While we try to provide accurate estimates, recovery from procedures and supportive care required can be variable.

If your pet is hospitalized, billing staff will contact you to collect a deposit comprising 50% of the upper end of the estimate range provided by the Ophthalmology Service. Please note that for outpatient visits and hospitalized patients, the balance must be paid in full at the time of patient discharge. Charges or credits may be applied to your bill up to 10 business days after the date of discharge.

Companion animal eye certification (OFA CAER) examinations include a dilated ophthalmic examination by a board-certified ophthalmologist. **You will need to submit the exam results to OFA along with a small additional fee if you want to receive an official certification number.** Registration for OFA CAER eye exams can be conducted online at ofa.org/online. Examination results can currently be entered online by the examining ophthalmologist or issued directly to the dog owner on a paper form. Costs for OFA exams can be provided by the service.

Pricing current as of January 2024. Prices are subject to change.

Payment methods: We accept all major credit cards, cash, check or Care Credit. Payment in full is due at the time of discharge.

Care Credit: You may apply for Care Credit at 1-800-677-0718 or www.carecredit.com (select UW Veterinary Care). If you have questions or concerns regarding using Care Credit at UWVC, please contact the reception desk at any time (608-263- 7600)



We hope you found this information helpful. If you have any further questions, please reach out to us at 608-263-7600