

# Cataract/Phacoemulsification

April 2021

Issue #2

## Pet of the month: Louie Bear

Louie Bear is a 13y 6m chocolate Labrador. He was rescued at the age of one from Labrador Rescuers. Louie Bear enjoys lounging in the garden under his favorite lavender bush, and he also loves to go on walk and say hello to his neighbors. Louie Bear finds entertainment in playing with his life size Panda and carrying it around the house.

### Louie Bear's Journey at VCA Eye Clinic for Animals

Louie Bear went blind the week of Thanksgiving 2020. Nicole, Louie Bear's mom, started noticing that he was bumping into the glass door, walls, and furniture around the house. She also observed that his eyes were opaque (cloudy) and since he is a diabetic, she was concerned about cataracts. Louie Bear was first brought to VCA ECFA on November 23, 2020 where Dr. Strubbe confirmed cataracts and recommended phacoemulsification and intraocular lens implantations.



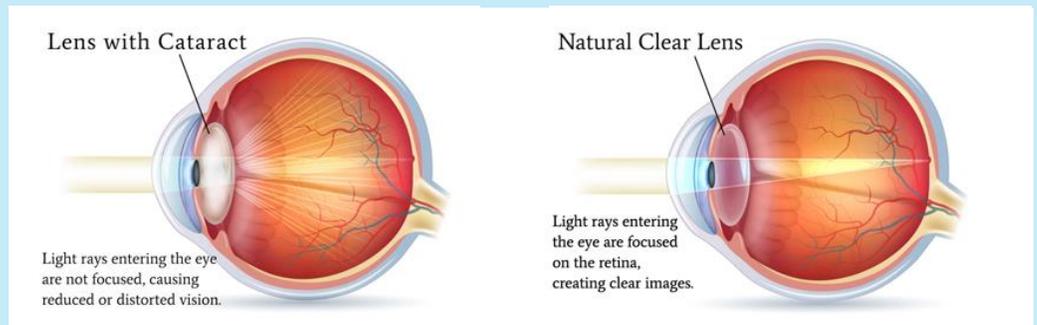
### Louie Bear's Post-Operative Life

Dr. Strubbe returned Louie Bear's eyesight on December 1, 2020 just in time for the holidays. With his eyesight back to normal, Louie Bear is able to enjoy strolling in his neighborhood and seeing his favorite people again.

"He is so happy and has a sassy swagger in his steps each day! Thanks to Dr. Strubbe and the team." – Nicole Wissemann.



# What is a cataract?



A cataract is an opacity of the lens within the eye. The lens' function is to focus light rays on the retina, and cataracts decrease vision by interfering with light reaching the retina.

Advanced cataracts are a leading cause of blindness in dogs and are generally recognizable by pet owners as a decrease in the dog's vision or by a cloudy, whitish-blue appearance to the eye.

## What is the Treatment?

Vision of affected dogs can often be restored to a normal state by surgically removing the abnormal lens and substituting an artificial lens.

The first step is to schedule an appointment for a

complete evaluation of the eyes. At the exam, our doctor will determine if cataracts are present and if surgery might be an option. After that, the patient will go through preoperative medical testing to see if he/she is the right candidate for the surgery. The first test called an *electroretinogram*, which can determine if the retina is working. The second test is an ocular ultrasound. Here we are looking for retinal detachments, floaters in the back of the eye, or anything else that would adversely affect the outcome of surgery.

## What causes cataracts?

Inherited defects are the most common cause of cataracts in the dog. Other causes include injuries to the eye or diseases such as diabetes mellitus.

## What is the most common question?

The most common question that owners have is: "How soon will my pet be able to see again?" In most cases, they will walk out of the hospital being able to see much better than when they walked in. This vision will improve as the inflammation decreases and the eyes begin to heal.

Please reach out to us if you would like your fur babies to be featured in our monthly newsletter!



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