

March  
2021

# VCA Eye Clinic for Animals

Issue  
#1

## **Pet of the Month: Bella**

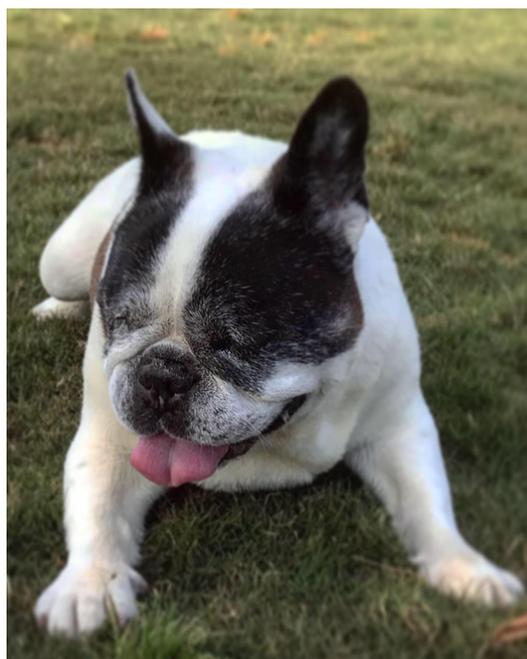
“Bella was born on February 7, 2007 and passed away on February 16, 2020. She lived a long and happy life and overcame so much. She will forever be my fighter.” – Kylie Greene

Bella found her forever home when Kylie Greene observed that she was being left outdoors and neglected because she didn't look or perform like a show dog. Kylie took her in and gave as much love as an owner can give to little Bella.

Bella loved to eat! She would sit right next to the trash can and waited patiently for scraps to fall down. She also enjoyed laying in the sun and getting her belly rubbed. Her favorite toy was a 'Lick Mat' that stuck to the floor and Bella's mom would spread peanut butter on it and Bella would spend half an hour licking everything off.



Bella loved chewing on her bacon flavored nylabone.



Bella enjoyed laying on her belly in the grass and feeling the warm breeze.

## **Bella's Journey at VCA Eye Clinic for Animals**

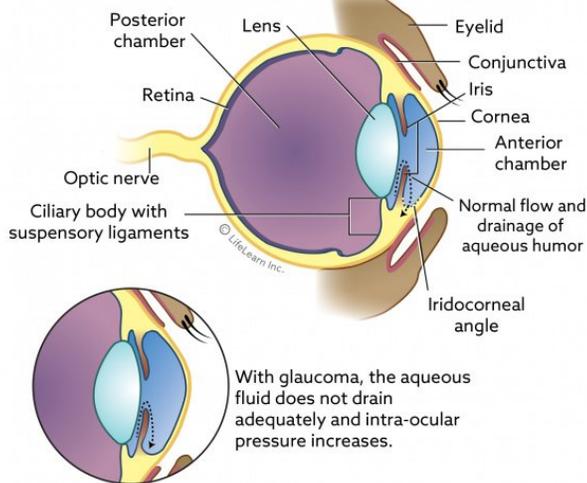
In 2018, Bella was diagnosed with glaucoma and was brought into VCA ECFA. Her eye pressure was incredibly high, and her family decided to try giving her eye drops to see if the pressure would decrease. They were giving her drops around the clock, and the drops didn't have any effect on her eye pressure. With the support of Dr. Strubbe and the VCA ECFA staff, they decided to go through with a double enucleation. This was extremely emotional and terrifying for their family, but relieving her of her pain was the most important factor. Although there were challenges, Bella was so much happier and more comfortable after procedure. Her family didn't have to put her through the aggressive medication regiment, and she didn't have to deal with the painful side effects of glaucoma. “The staff at VCA ECFA was beyond supportive and were there for me and my family in every way possible.” – Kylie Greene (Bella's mom)

# Glaucoma

## What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a disease of the eye in which the pressure within the eye, called the intraocular pressure (IOP) is abnormally high. Intraocular pressure is measured using an instrument called a tonometer.

### Cross-section of the eye



## What is the Treatment?

It is important to reduce the IOP as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of irreversible damage and blindness. It is also important to treat any underlying disease that may be responsible for the glaucoma.

Medications that decrease fluid production and promote drainage are often prescribed to treat the increased pressure.

Medical treatment often must be combined with surgery in severe or advanced cases. Veterinary ophthalmologists use various surgical techniques to reduce intra-ocular pressure. In some cases that do not respond to medical treatment, removal of the eye may be recommended to relieve the pain and discomfort.

## What causes Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is caused by inadequate drainage of aqueous fluid; it is not caused by overproduction of fluid. Glaucoma is further classified as primary or secondary glaucoma.

Primary glaucoma results in increased intra-ocular pressure in an otherwise normal eye. Some breeds are more prone than others. It occurs due to inherited anatomical abnormalities in the drainage angle.

Secondary glaucoma results in increased intra-ocular pressure due to disease or injury to the eye.

## What are the common clinical signs?

In most veterinary patients, glaucoma is aggressive, and there are few to no early warning signs. Patients present with a severely painful cloudy eye, and the eye is often blind due to the markedly elevated pressure. As the condition becomes more chronic, the eye progressively enlarges, and vision loss becomes permanent.



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