

Mission Field

August 2010

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

AZZORE
VETERINARY SPECIALISTS

Welcome to Mission Field! For the month of August we have exciting news to share but before going any further we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Azzore as your pet's specialty healthcare provider.

Your pet's health is important to us that's why we aim to provide current, educational, and vital information so that you can make informed decisions regarding your pet's specialty healthcare. Want to learn more about other specialty topics or procedures? Don't hesitate to call with your questions, concerns, and suggestions.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Mario Hodgson. He comes to Azzore with extensive experience in the animal eye care specialty field. Also, new to Azzore are Amanda Young and Regina Berry, clinical assistants. Look for their bios in future editions. Once again we thank you and look forward to meeting you and your pet's needs through a variety of services.

Dr. Dew & The Dew Crew

Meet Our Team



Dr. Terry Dew and staff welcome Dr. Hodgson to Azzore

Dr. Hodgson graduated from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, and was offered additional specialty training through an intensive, 3-year residency program approved through the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. During residency he also gained extensive professional experience through Charles River Laboratories and Advanced Animal Eye Care with Ophthalmologist Dr. Bill Miller. He completed his residency with Craig Fischer DVM, DACVO, in Clearwater, Fla.

Above: Dr. Hodgson and friends, top right; Dr. Hodgson in surgery.

Mission Field cont.

OPHTHALMOLOGY: A LOOK AT CATARACTS

What are Cataracts?

A cataract is a change in the clear protein of the lens. Normally the lens is clear allowing the image on which the eye is focused to be clearly projected onto the retina. When some of this protein becomes abnormal it becomes crystallized and opaque. This opaque area distorts the image and blurs the image slightly. As the cataract gets larger more and more of the image becomes distorted until vision is affected.

What causes cataracts?

There are several causes of cataracts including injury to the eye, other diseases of the eye, internal diseases of the patient (especially diabetes), and aging changes.

However, the most common causes among dogs are inherited factors. These vary from one breed to another in how they are inherited, at what age they develop, how quickly they develop and how much they affect vision.

Treatment for cataracts

No medication will keep cataracts from becoming worse or cause a cataract to "clear up". Medical treatment (usually eye drops) is often used to control the inflammation caused by the cataract or to open the pupil to increase vision. Removal of the cataract (surgery) is still the only method of improving vision in a patient with cataracts.

Whether or not cataract surgery would be helpful for any individual

patient depends on many factors.

Several differences between a human eye and a dog's eye should be considered in determining if cataract surgery is advisable for your pet.

Before cataract (surgery) the eyes need to be carefully evaluated. Active problems within the eye must be controlled before surgery is considered. Surgery is performed under general anesthesia (gas with oxygen). Certain laboratory tests are done to learn of any other internal medical problems which may require treatment.

For more information on specialty services offered by Dr. Hodgson, please call our office at:

479-964-4300

Did you know??

- The eyes of albino animals appear pink or red because light reflects off the blood vessels in the back of the eye.
- An animal may have irises of two different colors. This condition is called heterochromia.
- A cataract is a condition in which the components of the lens break down and then becomes cloudy.
- Most animals have a reflective layer in the choroid called the "tapetum lucidum." This is what causes their eyes to shine in the dark.

Source: www.peteducation.com

Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear.

- Dave Barry



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