

WHAT IS NUCLEAR SCLEROSIS?

Nuclear sclerosis is a normal age-related change that occurs in the lenses of dogs as they get older, typically beginning around 7-10 years of age. As new lens fibers form throughout life, older fibers become compressed in the center of the lens (the nucleus), causing it to appear blue-gray or cloudy.

Unlike cataracts, nuclear sclerosis does not significantly impair vision. It does make it more challenging to see things up close and reduces depth perception.



SIGNS YOU MAY NOTICE

- Blue, gray, or hazy appearance in both eyes
- Cloudiness that looks uniform throughout the center of the lens
- Your dog continues to navigate relatively normally
- No redness, pain, or discharge related to nuclear sclerosis
- Many owners first notice the change in bright sunlight or in photographs

NUCLEAR SCLEROSIS VS. CATARACTS

Nuclear Sclerosis	Cataracts
Normal aging change	Eye disease
Blue-gray haze	White or opaque appearance
Vision remains relatively normal	Vision is reduced or lost
No treatment needed	May require treatment or surgery
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LIVING WITH NUCLEAR SCLEROSIS

Dogs with nuclear sclerosis generally continue to enjoy an excellent quality of life. No treatment is required for nuclear sclerosis because it is a normal part of aging.

You can help by:

- Keeping furniture in familiar locations
- Using caution near pools/waterways, busy roads, and stairs
- Providing good lighting indoors
- Scheduling routine veterinary wellness exams
- Monitoring for any changes in vision or eye appearance