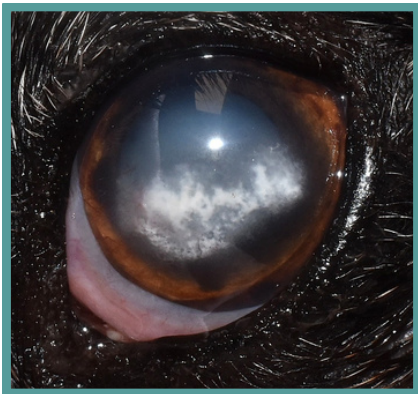


WHAT IS THE CORNEA?

The cornea is the clear, curved surface at the front of the eye. It allows light to enter the eye and plays an important role in vision. When the cornea becomes damaged or unhealthy, it can become cloudy and affect comfort and sight.

WHAT IS CORNEAL DEGENERATION?

Corneal degeneration occurs when minerals (typically calcium) and fats (lipids) accumulate within the cornea. These deposits create white, gray, or crystalline areas that can vary in size and location. It can cause inflammation and/or corneal ulcers, which can be painful.



CAUSES OF CORNEAL DEGENERATION

Corneal degeneration is often associated with:

- Chronic eye inflammation
- Previous corneal ulcers or injury
- Aging changes
- Elevated blood lipid levels (hyperlipidemia)
- Systemic diseases such as diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism, or Cushing's disease

SIGNS YOU MAY NOTICE

- White, gray, or sparkling spots on the eye
- Cloudiness of the cornea
- Redness or irritation
- Excessive tearing
- Squinting or discomfort
- Vision reduction



TREATMENT OPTIONS

While some deposits remain stable, others can cause the cornea to become rough or ulcerated, leading to pain and increased risk of infection.

Treatment depends on severity and may include:

- Lubricating or antibiotic eye drops
- Medications to treat underlying inflammation and improve corneal health
- Evaluation and treatment of underlying systemic disease
- Specialized procedures to remove problematic deposits in severe cases