

Dealing with Emergency Eye Injuries in Pets: What to Do Until Help Arrives



Eye injuries in pets can be frightening, especially when they happen suddenly or in a vulnerable situation. Whether your pet has scratched their eye, been exposed to chemicals, or suffered a blunt force injury, [emergency eye injuries in pets](#) need to be addressed quickly to prevent long-term damage or vision loss.

Pets rely heavily on their sense of sight, and a serious eye injury can affect their quality of life. Knowing how to recognize eye injuries, what to do until help arrives, and when to seek **emergency veterinary care** can make all the difference in preserving your pet's vision and health.

In this blog, we'll guide you through common **pet eye injuries**, how to handle them until you can get to the vet, and why acting fast is so important.

Common Types of Eye Injuries in Pets

Pets are at risk for various types of eye injuries, and these injuries can range from minor irritations to severe damage that requires urgent care. Here are some of the most common **eye injuries in pets**:

1. **Scratches or Abrasions**

One of the most common types of eye injury in pets is a corneal scratch or abrasion. Pets may inadvertently scratch their eye while playing, during a fight, or even by rubbing their face against something rough. A corneal scratch can be painful and, if untreated, can lead to infection or scarring, which could impact vision.

2. **Chemical Exposure**

Pets can also suffer eye injuries if they come into contact with toxic substances like cleaning products, pesticides, or even human cosmetics. These chemicals can cause immediate irritation, burning sensations, or even chemical burns to the eye. If left untreated, the damage can worsen quickly, leading to permanent damage.

3. **Foreign Objects in the Eye**

Foreign objects, such as dust, sand, or plant matter, can easily get into a pet's eye, causing irritation, discomfort, and potential damage. If an object is embedded in the eye or causes significant injury, it can lead to more serious complications, including infection.

4. **Blunt Force Trauma**

Pets can sustain eye injuries from blunt force trauma, such as being hit in the face, colliding with an object, or being struck by another animal. These injuries can lead to swelling, bruising, or more serious damage to the eye, such as a ruptured globe.

5. **Bleeding or Lacerations**

Eye lacerations and bleeding may occur due to trauma or cuts from sharp objects. If the injury is deep or causes bleeding in the eye, immediate veterinary care is required to assess the damage and prevent further harm.

6. **Eye Protrusion**

In rare cases, pets can experience an injury where the eye bulges or protrudes from its socket. This is a serious emergency and requires immediate veterinary care to prevent permanent damage and potential loss of the eye.

Recognizing the Signs of an Eye Injury in Your Pet

When your pet suffers an eye injury, it's important to recognize the symptoms early and act quickly. Common signs that your pet may have suffered an **eye injury** include:

1. **Excessive Squinting or Eye Winking**

Pets with eye injuries may squint or blink excessively due to pain or discomfort. If your pet is unable to open their eye fully or is constantly squinting, it's likely they are experiencing eye trauma.

2. **Redness or Swelling**

Inflammation, redness, or swelling around the eye are common signs of injury. The eye or eyelid may appear puffed up, and the white part of the eye may become bloodshot.

3. **Tearing or Discharge**

Increased tear production or the presence of thick, discolored discharge coming from the eye can indicate infection, irritation, or injury. Clear, watery tears are often associated with irritants or minor injuries, while thick yellow or green discharge is a sign of infection.

4. **Pawing at the Eye or Rubbing the Face**

If your pet is pawing at their face, rubbing their eyes, or trying to scratch at the area, it's a clear sign that they are in pain or discomfort from an eye injury.

5. **Cloudy or Abnormal Appearance of the Eye**

If the eye appears cloudy, has an unusual color (like blue or yellow), or if you notice visible damage to the eye (such as cuts or tears), it's an urgent sign that medical attention is needed immediately.

6. **Bulging or Protruding Eye**

A bulging or prolapsed eye is a severe condition that requires immediate attention. If your pet's eye is protruding or appears to be out of place, this is a medical emergency.

What to Do If Your Pet Has an Eye Injury

If your pet experiences an eye injury, it's essential to remain calm and follow these steps to provide initial care:

1. **Stay Calm and Keep Your Pet Calm**

Stay calm, as this will help you think clearly and act quickly. If your pet is anxious or in pain, try to keep them as still and calm as possible to prevent further injury.

2. **Examine the Eye Carefully**

Gently try to assess the injury. Look for signs of cuts, swelling, or foreign objects in the eye. If your pet allows you to examine the eye, do so carefully without causing any further irritation or injury.

3. **Flush the Eye with Water**

If your pet's eye has been exposed to a chemical or foreign object, flush the eye with clean, lukewarm water to rinse out the irritant. Use a sterile saline solution or clean tap water. Do not use any medications or eye drops without the advice of a vet.

4. **Cover the Eye with a Clean Cloth**

If your pet is squinting or showing signs of discomfort, you can place a clean, damp cloth over the injured eye to help soothe the area. Be careful not to press too hard on the eye itself.

5. **Avoid Applying Pressure**

If you suspect your pet's eye is deeply injured or protruding, avoid applying any pressure to the eye area. Applying pressure can cause further damage, especially in severe cases like a ruptured eye or glaucoma.

6. **Transport to the Emergency Vet**

After providing initial care, it's important to get your pet to the vet as soon as possible for proper diagnosis and treatment. If the injury appears severe (bleeding, bulging eye, or excessive pain), head straight to an **emergency pet clinic** for urgent care.

When to Seek Emergency Care for Eye Injuries

Some eye injuries can be minor and heal on their own, but others require **emergency care for pets** to prevent permanent damage. You should seek urgent care if:

- Your pet is experiencing significant pain or cannot open their eyes.
- There is visible damage to the eye, such as a tear, puncture, or cloudiness.
- Your pet's eye is bulging, dislocated, or protruding from its socket.
- You suspect your pet has been exposed to a toxic substance or chemical.
- There is excessive bleeding or discharge from the eye.
- Your pet is showing signs of severe distress, such as excessive pawing or rubbing their face.

Conclusion

Eye injuries can be incredibly painful for pets, but with the right care, many eye injuries can be treated successfully. Whether it's a simple scratch or a more serious trauma, **recognizing the symptoms of eye injuries** and knowing what to do before seeking veterinary care can prevent long-term damage. **Emergency care for pets** is crucial to ensure that your pet's vision and overall health are preserved.

At **North MS Pet Emergency**, we are here to provide expert care for your pet's **eye injuries** and other urgent health issues. If your pet has suffered an eye injury, don't wait, contact us immediately for prompt treatment.

[Contact Us Now](#) for immediate care, or visit us for **emergency care for pets** after hours.