



► Fostering is an ideal activity for people that love animals but cannot commit to having a lifelong pet in China.



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► It is a rewarding experience to give an abandoned and/or mistreated animal a second chance in life.

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Eye Infections in Cats

Cats are often susceptible to eye infections, and **they can lose their eyes if they don't receive treatment quickly**. There are also several things which cats should avoid when they have infected eyes, as even with treatment, they do not always heal. A cat eye infection can be a problem very annoying to our cats. It is important to get to know about this type of cat health problem and the best ways to deal with it. Most cat owners encounter this problem when they notice a discharge in the eye, or perhaps excessive redness, in all cases the best thing to do is go to the veterinarian, who will prescribe the right medication for your cat. Cat eye infections can be caused by a set of different factors, each one of them require a different treatment. As cat owners we must learn about these infections in order to help our cats if the need arises. Below you'll find more information on the different types of feline eye infections, and some extra info on common treatments.

Types of Cat Eye Infections

There are different types of feline eye infections. This is one reason why there isn't a unique treatment that will work on every case. Infections can be caused by viruses, bacteria and even certain types of fungus; we will take a look at them and their own particularities.

A) Fungal Cat Eye Infections

We are talking most of the cases here about Cryptococcosis. This fungus can cause eye problems such as pupils not being sensitive to light, peripheral blindness, dilated eyes, blindness or inflamed

retina.

Once these eye problems are noticeable, it means the the Cryptococcosis is affecting the nervous system. In order to treat this type of eye infection in cats, doctors use anti-fungal meds such as itraconazole, trizole, fluconazole and voriconazole.

B) Viral Cat Eye Infection

There are certain viruses that can cause you problems with a cat eye infection:

Feline Herpesvirus 1: This virus is the main responsible of conjunctivitis cases in cats. It spreads easily from other infected cats, and it should be treated using special eye drops for this condition, prescribed by the veterinary.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis: This is cause by a coronavirus. This type of feline eye infection is hard to diagnose. Veterinarians use tests that can only suggest the presence of viruses. This infection is lethal, and well if a cat gets infected he may live only a few months. Any medication will serve only to give the cat a better quality of life during that time.

Feline Panleukopenia: Again this infection is one that can be fatal. Luckily you can prevent any case with vaccination. There is a core vaccine used specifically for this disease. Cats suffering this infection end up with lesions in the eye.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus: This disease is transmitted by cat biting, and it can go unnoticed for a long period of time. Once the virus spreads it allows for easy infections - it is comparable to AIDS in humans. Cats live in most cases for 2 years with this disease.



Jaiya's Animal Rescue

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C) Bacterial Cat Eye Infection

We are talking here about Chlamydia, and well this bacterium is another common cause of conjunctivitis. To treat this condition, veterinarians prescribe the use of Tetracycline.

Are There Natural Treatments for Cat Eye Infections?

Some people use natural treatments and over-the-counter products with hopes of getting rid of an infection. Unless you really know what you are doing, do not ever replace medical treatment with these alternatives. You can use them as a complement to the treatment of your cat, but even in those cases, it is the best idea to go and talk with your veterinarian first.

As you have read in this page feline eye infections are not all the same, and each of the causes will need a different approach/ treatment.

Instructions

- The first thing to do with your cat if it has an eye infection is to take it to the vets and to find out what kind of infection it is. There are a variety of infections that a cat can get in its eyes, although the most common is simply conjunctivitis with a variety of background causes. Most of the time treatment from the vets is the administration of eye drops.
- Secondly if you have a younger cat who is still nursing, then you should make sure that the cat they are nursing from is clean. Often stale milk and dirt tend to collect around the nipples, meaning kittens often get eye infections from here. Use some antibacterial wet wipes to wipe down cats that are feed-

ing any kittens with eye infections.

- After administering the eye drops at the intervals stated on the package (usually once or twice per day) check the cats eyes every day for improvement. Usually the eyes will improve after a day or two, and if they don't, then you should take them back to the vets for a second opinion.
- If you live with a smoker, or in an arid area, then wither smoke or sand could be the cause of the cats eye infections. If sand could be the cause, then try to keep the cat indoors for the most part. If a smoker could be to blame then have them smoke outside so that the smoke isn't coming into contact with the cats eyes.



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