

# OCCURRENCE OF CATARACT IN DOGS

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A study on the occurrence of cataract in dogs presented to the Veterinary College Hospital, Bangalore was undertaken for a period of one year from May 2014 to April 2015. The total numbers of dogs presented to the Veterinary College Hospital, Hebbal, Bangalore during March 2015 to Feb 2016 were 13,200. Out of these the dogs with Cataract were 28 (0.21 per cent). Breed-wise occurrence of Cataract was highest *i.e.* seven in Cocker Spaniel (25.00 %). With regard to the age group the highest incidence of cataract (46.43 %) was seen in 9-11 years of age group. , The average age of dogs with cataract was 8.5 years. The incidence was comparatively high in males (53.60 %) than females (46.40%).

**Keywords:** Cataract, Inherited, Lens, Ophthalmoscopy, Visual function tests.

Cataract the opacification of lens, regardless of the cause, size or location is the most common abnormality of the lens and the major cause of blindness (Margane, 1969), affecting thousands of dogs annually and also other species of animals (Davidson and Keil, 2001). Most cataracts are inherited and affect dogs older than five years of age. Commonly affected breeds include American cocker spaniel, Poodle, Bosten terrier, Miniature schnauzer, Bichon friese and Labrador retriever (Cynthia cook, 2009). Underlying causes may include genetic mutations, diabetic mellitus, uveitis, congenital anomaly, trauma, toxins and dilatory deficiency. This retrospective study was undertaken to analyze the incidence of cataract in dogs.

## Materials and methods

The study was conducted in dogs presented to the Department of Surgery and Radiology, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Bangalore for a period of one year from March 2015 to Feb 2016. The dogs had the history of hitting the wall and other objects while walking, whiteness inside the eyes and few owners reported about their pet's hesitation while descending stairs or difficulty catching toy or treat. All the dogs were subjected to detailed ophthalmic examination by gross examination of the eye, direct ophthalmoscopic examination and the visual function tests viz; menace reflex test, obstacle test, palpebr-

al reflex test, pupillary light reflex test, tracking reflex test, Schirmer's tear test, fluorescein dye test tonometry. With regard to the age the patients were categorized in to 0-3 years, 3-5 years, 5-7 years,7-9 years and 9 - 11 years and more than 11 years,

## Results and Discussion

The total numbers of dogs presented to the Veterinary College Hospital, Bangalore during March 2015 to Feb 2016 were 13,200. Out of these, the number of dogs presented with Cataract was 28 (0.21 per cent). Similarly Amitha (2015) reported 0.16%. Breed-wise occurrence of Cataract was highest in Cocker Spaniel (25.00 %), followed by six in Pomera-nian (21.43 % ), four in Golden Retriever(14 .29 %), three cases each in German Spitz, Lab-rador Retrievers and Non-descript (10.72 %) and two in German Shepherds (4.35%) {Table -1}. The similar observations were made by Deuri *et al.* (2012), Sale *et al.* (2013), Hmar (2015) and Amitha (2015). This could be attributed to the popularity of the breed in the cit y. Also, cataract was found to be more in pure-bred dogs as compared to mixed and nondescript dogs. Similar findings were observed by Ofri (2008) and Bellumoret *al.* (2013), according to them inheritance was probably the most common cause of cataracts. With regard to the age group categorized in to 0-3 years, 3-5 years, 5-7 years,7-9 years and 9 - 11 years an-d more than 11 years, the highest occurrence of cataract (46.43 % ) was seen in 9-11 years of age group , followed by 21.43% cases in 7

to 9 years of age, 14.29 % cases in age groups of more than 11 years, 7.15 % cases in dogs between 0 to 3 years and 5 to 7 years of

age group. The average age of dogs with cataract was 8.5 years (Table-2).

Similar observations were recorded by Sale

**Table 1: Breed wise occurrence of cataract in dogs**

Breeds	No of animals	%
Cocker Spaniel	7	25.00
Pomeranian	6	21.43
Golden Retriever	4	14.29
Labrador Retriever	3	10.27
German Spitz	3	10.27
Non-descript	3	10.27
German Shepherd	2	7.15

**Table 2: Age wise occurrence of cataract in dogs**

Age (Years)	No of animals	%
0 -3	2	7.15
3-5	1	3.58
5-7	2	7.15
7-9	6	21.43
9-11	13	46.43
>11	4	14.29

*et al.* (2013) and Amitha (2015). This may be due to aging of the lens as the years progresses as also reported by Ofri (2008). In the present study cataract recorded in males was 53.60 % and 46.40% in females. Similar findings have been reported by Deuri *et al.* (2012), Sale *et al.* (2013) and Amitha (2015). This may be due to the preference of owners to have male dogs because of the menace during the estrous cycle in females.

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