



High blood pressure and sudden blindness in cats

Sudden blindness in cats is a medical emergency - please call your vet immediately if you think your cat can no longer see.

Signs of blindness

You may notice dilated pupils (the black centre of the eyes) or your cat may bump into things or simply not want to move.

High blood pressure (hypertension) and sudden blindness

The most common cause of sudden onset loss of vision in cats is damage to the retina (inner layer of the eye) due to high blood pressure. If high blood pressure is treated very soon after blindness occurs it is possible for vision to return. Sadly, many cats who go blind do not see a vet immediately and if it is left over 24-48 hours there is a high chance the blindness will be permanent. Untreated high blood pressure can lead to permanent blindness, kidney failure and heart disease. It is therefore essential that sudden blindness is treated as an emergency.

High blood pressure is fairly common in senior cats. There are often no obvious signs that a cat has high blood pressure we therefore recommend a blood pressure check every 6 months for cats over 8 years old. This is a simple procedure that involves inflating a cuff placed on your cat's leg or tail. Our 'After 8' clinics with one of our qualified nurses include a free blood pressure check for your cat.

High blood pressure in cats is usually secondary to another disease e.g. chronic kidney disease or an overactive thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism) or heart disease. If your cat is diagnosed with high blood pressure we may recommend testing for these diseases.

Lanes Vets Locations & Contact Information.

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