



Golden Retriever-associated pigmentary & cystic uveitis



Lymphoma

necessarily symmetrical. Treatment is generally empirical, frequently comprising topical and/or systemic anti-inflammatory immune-modulating as well as IOP-lowering agents, however secondary glaucoma is frequently the end-point of this disease.

Canine uveodermatologic syndrome represents an immune-mediated disease affecting melanocytic tissue and exhibits similarities to Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada (VKH) disease in humans. Ocular symptoms include anterior uveitis, chorioretinitis or pan-uveitis. Additional symptoms may include any combination of periocular, mucocutaneous oral and/or nasal viteligo (loss of pigment), poliosis (whitening of hair) and/or ulcerative dermatitis. Typically these symptoms are relatively bilaterally symmetrical in appearance. Commonly affected breeds include the Akita, Siberian Husky, Samoyed & Chow Chow. Treatment usually comprises aggressive, longterm anti-inflammatory and/or immune-modulating therapy, with successful management typically achievable.

Aqueous lipidosis describes a condition in which elevated levels of lipoproteins move into the anterior chamber. Changes may occur spontaneously as a result of primary hyperlipoproteinemia, following significant dietary indiscretion, in association with underlying metabolic disease and/or as a result of anterior uveitis. Addressing underlying metabolic and/or dietary imbalances as well as concurrent uveitis, if present, typically results in rapid resolution of symptoms. In selected cases, treatment using fibrates (such as gemfibrozil) and/or statins (such as atorvastatin) may be indicated, however the use of these products in canine patients has not been approved.

Feline diffuse iris melanosis (FIDM) comprises the accumulation of pigmented melanocytes within the anterior iridal tissue. With time, some cases display deeper iris invasion and may additionally develop histologic characteristics of malignancy, representing true iris melanomas. The management of iris melanosis (and its differentiation from iris melanoma) represents a challenge to the practitioner. Options include;

- clinical monitoring only (particularly relevant in cases displaying only minimally progressive focal nevi which are not elevated above the level of the iris)
- laser photoablation of affected tissues (particularly relevant in cases showing relatively rapid progression or beginning to invade ICA structures)
- enucleation (particularly relevant in cases displaying changes suggestive of outright uveal neoplastic progression and/or secondary glaucoma). Clinical changes suggestive of neoplastic proliferation may include the development of “velvety” appearance to focal areas of pigmentation, followed by obvious elevation of pigmented tissue above the iridal surface and resultant pupillary dyscoria

Other relatively commonly encountered neoplastic processes which may affect the uveal tract include lymphoma, melanoma & adenocarcinoma. These may be managed via chemotherapeutic intervention where indicated, surgical resection where possible or enucleation if necessary. **P**

Dr Esson is a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist with more than twenty years of clinical experience and multiple areas of interest & expertise. His clinic Veterinary Ophthalmic Consulting (www.veterinaryophthalmicconsulting.com) is family owned & operated and he takes great pride & pleasure in working closely with his friends and colleagues in the greater Southern California veterinary community.

