

# The Feline Eye



Although eyes are remarkably similar between domestic species, the feline eye presents some unique features both in normal anatomy and response to disease. There are a number of ocular conditions which occur only in felines. In general, the cat eye exhibits a much less pronounced response to inflammation than seen in dogs. The cornea is slower to demonstrate edema or vascularization and corneal pigmentation is extremely rare. Thus, detection of the early stages of ocular disease in cats can be more challenging. One of the most common conditions of the feline eye is conjunctivitis.

**CONJUNCTIVITIS** most often occurs secondary to systemic upper respiratory infections due to Herpesvirus, Calicivirus, Mycoplasma, and Chlamydia. Often the ocular symptoms persist long after apparent resolution of the respiratory disease, possibly due to infection within the nasolacrimal duct. Diagnosis is made by antibody testing or virus isolation.